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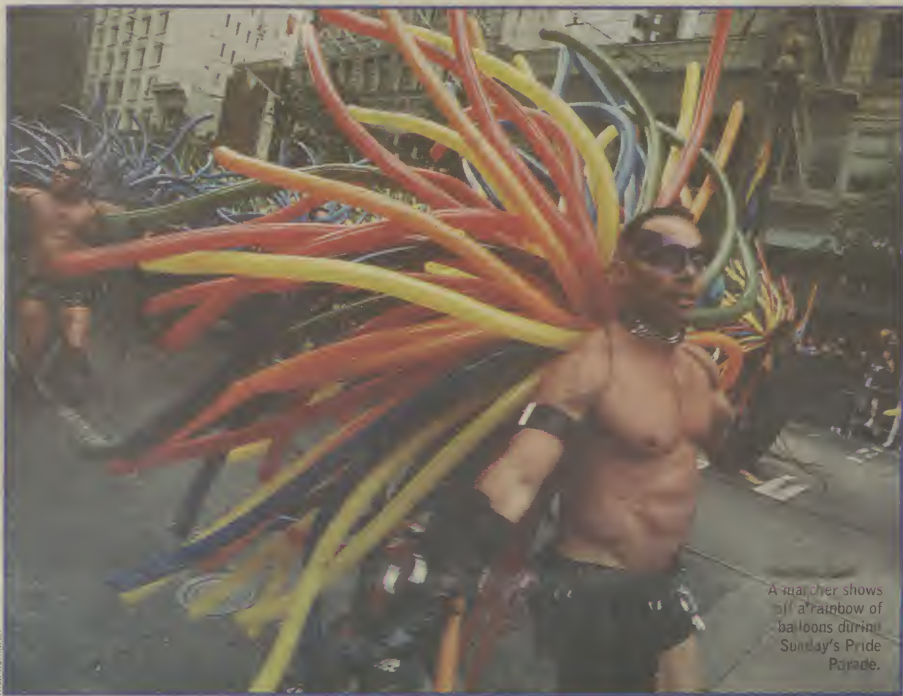
# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 26 • 30 June 2005

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## Full of Pride at the parade

by Cynthia Laird



A dancer shows off a rainbow of balloons during Sunday's Pride Parade.

**S**an Francisco's 35th annual LGBT Pride Parade Sunday, June 26 brought out an amazing array of colorful floats, bicycle and motorcycle riders, politicians, and marching contingents as hundreds of thousands of people lined Market Street to view one of the world's largest expressions of freedom.

The weekend festival at Civic Center Plaza also saw record crowds, according to Pride officials, who estimated overall turnout at around 1 million.

"It went really, really well," Pride board President Joey Cain told the Bay Area Reporter on Monday. He added that it appeared to him that the crowd along Market Street seemed larger than last year, and attributed that in part to cooler weather. "The overcast weather brings more people out," he said.

Later in the day on Sunday, as the weather cleared, Cain said that beverage sales were brisk. A portion of those sales generates revenue for numerous nonprofit community groups, along with a portion of the gate



Paradegeers enjoy the show.

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## CARE Act renewal process begins

by Bob Roehr

**L**ast year the Ryan White CARE Act funneled more than \$2 billion to HIV/AIDS care and treatment within the United States. The act is up for reauthorization this year and congressional hearings began last week.

"Medical breakthroughs have dramatically transformed HIV infection for many into a chronic manageable disease. ... While the face of AIDS has changed, our federal government has been slow to adapt to those changes," said Senator Tom Coburn in opening a June 23 oversight hearing on the CARE Act.

The Oklahoma conservative and pediatrician choked up in recalling the baby girl he delivered 20 years ago who later died of AIDS at the age of



Sen. Tom Coburn

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## Newsom asks Brown to help mediate Badlands dispute

by Matthew S. Bajko

**M**ayor Gavin Newsom has tapped former Mayor Willie Brown to mediate in the Badlands case, but the politician known for twisting arms and settling intractable disputes will find getting both sides to the table isn't going to be easy.

The parties in the matter have said they are agreeable to mediation, but for the last year, they have been unable to agree on the terms for mediating. Since last week And Castro For All, the group representing the complainants in the case, and lawyers for Les Natali, the Castro bar owner accused of racist practices, have been at odds over a written statement of apology the group wants Natali to issue before it enters into mediation.

Hoping to move the process along, Newsom said during an interview Friday, June 24 with the city's gay newspapers that he had asked Brown Thursday, June 23 to serve as mediator. Newsom pointed to Brown's long record of working on both civil rights and gay rights issues as to why he asked his predecessor to become involved. Brown also helped solve several labor disputes as both mayor of San Francisco and as a state assemblyman.

"I have no tolerance for discrimination. At the same time there needs to be mediation in this," Newsom said. "[Brown] is going to mediate, meet with both sides, review the facts, and make some recommendations so we can end this. It is very divisive and the last thing this community needs is to have problems within the African American community and



Mayor Gavin Newsom greets paradegeers along Market Street; the mayor has asked his predecessor, Willie Brown, to mediate in the Badlands dispute.

the gay community."

Asked why he had agreed to accept Newsom's request, Brown responded "that is none of your business," preferring not to answer questions about the issue until after mediation is concluded.

"You cannot be successful handling matters of this sensitive nature if you end up being in the press everyday. I do not want to be quoted in the press until after this matter is resolved," said Brown.

Barry Strike, one of Natali's lawyers, said he had yet to discuss the mayor's proposal with his client. But he stressed, "Mr. Natali, for his part, hasn't rejected any mediation."

The complainants also have yet to sign off on Brown's mediating the matter. Julius Turman, the group's attorney, said it was not until Tuesday, June 28 in a phone conversation that Brown formally offered to mediate.

"I think it would be an excellent idea. It


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# Medical pot club raids worry patients

by Liz Highleyman

Two weeks after the Supreme Court ruled that the federal government may prosecute medical marijuana patients and providers despite state law, Drug Enforcement Administration officials raided three San Francisco cannabis dispensaries last Wednesday, June 22. The federal government said the actions were part of a crackdown on organized crime, not medical marijuana per se.

"Documents unsealed today allege that this trafficking organization used several marijuana dispensaries in its conspiracy to facilitate the sale and distribution of illicit drugs, money laundering, and international bulk cash smuggling," said U.S. Attorney Kevin Ryan at a June 23 press conference.

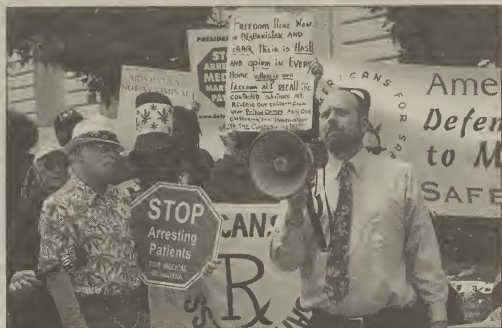
Last week's actions were the culmination of a two-year investigation, dubbed Operation Urban Harvest. Jose Martinez of the DEA said it was the largest federal operation to date involving medical marijuana clubs.

The three dispensaries — the Alternative Relief Co-Op and the Herbal Relief Center on Ocean Avenue, and the Sunset Medicinal Resource Center on Judah Street — were among 26 businesses and residences raided last Wednesday. Agents sized more than 9,000 cannabis plants valued at over \$5 million, lights and other growing equipment, packaged baked goods containing marijuana, some 50 ecstasy tablets, firearms, several vehicles, and two rottweiler dogs. Nineteen individuals were indicted for crimes including cannabis cultivation and trafficking, ecstasy possession with intent to distribute, and money laundering; a warrant was issued for the arrest of Vince Ming Wan, who authorities allege was a leader of the operation. Van Nguyen, who owns the Herbal Relief Center, was not arrested and said he had "nothing to do" with organized crime.

According to an affidavit unsealed last Thursday, Enrique Chan, who owned another dispensary targeted in the bust, told an undercover agent that only about half his clients had a legitimate medical need for cannabis, and that the club served as a "backbone" for illegal sales. "If I get busted for weed here, I'll take these patients to court," he reportedly said. "You're going to bring patients in court, like really sick patients with cancer, have them sit on the stand for you. And no jury is gonna convict you."

Ryan told reporters that the timing of last week's crackdown was not related to the high court's *Gonzales v. Raich* decision. "We are not talking about ill people who may be using marijuana," he said. "We are talking about a criminal enterprise engaged in a widespread distribution of large amounts of marijuana and other drugs." But Javier Pena, who heads up the DEA's Bay Area operations, made it clear that the federal government does not recognize California's Compassionate Use Act (Proposition 215). "There are some members of the public that think they can disregard the courts and Congress," he stated. "We have the power to enforce federal drug laws even in areas where it might not be popular."

Along with the DEA, the Inter-



John Shaw of the HIV/AIDS Survivors Union at last week's rally.

nal Revenue Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United States Secret Service, California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, San Francisco Police Department, Oakland Police Department, and San Mateo Narcotics Task Force also participated in Operation Urban Harvest.

San Francisco police were quick to emphasize that while they participated in the larger conspiracy investigation, they did not "take any enforcement action" against medical cannabis dispensaries. Both District Attorney Kamala Harris and City Attorney Dennis Herrera have said that they support medical marijuana and would not assist federal efforts against patients and providers. Matt Dorsey of the city attorney's office reiterated last Thursday that San Francisco officials "absolutely respect" a patient's right to "the compassionate use of cannabis."

Despite such assurances, local medical marijuana patients and their advocates expressed both anger and concern. Following the June 23 federal press conference, about 100 medical cannabis supporters held a rally and press conference of their own at City Hall, followed by a short march to the federal building on McAllister Street.

"Every time they close a club, I live in fear that I won't be able to get my medicine," said John Shaw of the HIV/AIDS Survivors Union.

City officials and medical marijuana advocates alike decried the use of the state's Compassionate Use Act as a cover for criminal activity, and emphasized that stricter and more consistent regulation of the city's cannabis dispensaries was the best way to keep this from happening.

"The absence of laws only puts out a welcome mat for potential problems," said District 5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, who with the rest of the board voted on March 29 to impose a moratorium on new dispensaries while the city devises such regulations.

Tuesday evening, as the *Bay Area Reporter* went to press, Supervisor Bevan Dufty told the B.A.R. that earlier that day, Mirkarimi introduced a proposed set of dispensary regulations, which cover issues such as proximity of clubs to schools.

"We are all concerned if there are shady characters doing things they shouldn't under the umbrella of Proposition 215," said Bruce Mirken of the Marijuana Policy Project. "We don't want patients to be exploited. The solution to every problem that exists is responsible regulation. The biggest obstacle to that is the federal gov-

ernment. Our problem is not in San Francisco, it is in D.C."

"If the allegations are true, it's really unfortunate that they'd use patients as a shield for this activity," said Steph Sherer of Americans for Safe Access. "This shows that federal law is getting in the way of effectively regulating medical marijuana. If it can't exist in the daylight, then things happen in the dark."

## Local clubs mostly legal

In related news, the city attorney's office reported last week that allegations of cannabis clubs opening after the Board of Supervisors imposed their 45-day moratorium (since extended until November) were mostly invalid.

In a June 23 press release, Herrera said that an investigation by his department revealed that a majority of the dispensaries did not, in fact, violate the moratorium. Of the dozen clubs city officials, neighbors, or anonymous sources accused of operating illegally, the investigation concluded that seven had opened before the moratorium was put in place. Among the remaining dispensaries, three closed voluntarily before the investigation was completed and the Alternative Relief Co-Op on Ocean Avenue was among those shuttered during the prior day's raids; two others remain under investigation.

Herrera emphasized that his investigation concerned only violations of the moratorium, and was in no way connected to Operation Urban Harvest.

"At a time in which city policymakers are grappling to balance the imperatives of compassionate medical cannabis use with concerns from the neighborhoods they represent, our investigation is necessary to ensure that moratorium scofflaws don't inflame policy efforts or risk further involvement by federal authorities," Herrera said [see story on page 17]. "The patients and caregivers of San Francisco deserve responsible dispensaries that respect our city ordinances — and by and large that's exactly what our investigation has found."

## More arrests up north

Finally, also on June 22, a federal grand jury in Sacramento indicted Dr. Marion "Molly" Fry and her husband, attorney Dale Schaffer, on charges of cannabis distribution. Fry and Schaffer were arrested last Wednesday afternoon at their Greenwood home. The couple, who face up to 80 years in prison, pleaded not guilty in federal court and were released on \$25,000 bail each.



# Milk memorial project needs money, volunteers

by Zak Szymanski

The campaign to raise funds for the Harvey Milk memorial sculpture is newly invigorated, according to organizers, thanks in large part to a \$25,000 challenge grant announced by the Bob Ross Foundation and recent visibility at last weekend's LGBT Pride festival.

The challenge grant announcement was made in an editorial in last week's *Bay Area Reporter*. Ross was the paper's founder and publisher until his death in December 2003. The Bob Ross Foundation works to carry out the charitable work that Ross was involved in for decades. Thomas E. Horn oversees the foundation; he is also publisher of the *B.A.R.*

"It is the foundation's desire to see this project completed, and to appropriately memorialize Milk in City Hall, where he belongs," the editorial stated.

About \$665 was raised at the Milk memorial booth during Pride festivities, according to Dan Nicoletta, a longtime friend of Milk's and one of the core organizers of the project, known as the Milk City Hall Memorial Committee. Under the terms of the challenge grant, every dollar donated by the public will be matched, up to \$25,000, an incentive that will appeal to donors as the project embarks on a direct mail and e-mail fundraising campaign, said Nicoletta. It is hoped that money from the challenge grant, along with the matching community contributions, will be enough to fund the project, in addition to the roughly \$12,000 that has already been raised. The projected date of installation and unveiling at City Hall is May 22, 2006, what would have been Milk's 76th birthday.

Donations to the memorial are tax-deductible thanks to the fiscal sponsorship of the San Francisco LGBT Pride Celebration Committee Inc., which is acting as the nonprofit umbrella for the project. All donations will go toward the memorial; the money will not be used for Pride-related events. The memorial project is working closely with the San Francisco Arts Commission, which serves in an advisory capacity and will have the final word on design and specific location of the sculpture.

Milk was a visionary and an inspiration to many in San Francisco and beyond, organizing against homophobia and building bridges between gays and other communities. His camera store on Castro Street acted as a political organizing space, and in 1977 he became



Volunteers staff the booth for the Harvey Milk memorial bust at the LGBT Pride festival last weekend.

California's first openly gay man to win elected office when he secured a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Eleven months later, he and Mayor George Moscone were gunned down in their City Hall offices by former Supervisor Dan White.

"I personally have a great metaphysical debt to Harvey and Scott [Smith, Milk's partner] as they were my first gay mentors in town," said Nicoletta on his role in the memorial project. "Back then my self-esteem was pretty fragile, but they fixed that pretty early on. The rest is herstory."

The Milk memorial has been in the works for quite some time, with the Board of Supervisors in October 2001 unanimously passing a resolution urging the appropriate city bodies to begin the process. The fundraising campaign for the Milk memorial was first announced in January 2003 by then-Supervisor Matt Gonzalez who directed donations to a fund set up at the city controller's office. About \$3,000 was donated through that fund, and that money has since been transferred and centralized under one group, according to Nicoletta, whose group raised an additional \$9,000 over the last couple of years. After promotional and event expenses, about \$6,000 remains in the war

chest, he said. In order for progress to continue, more donations — as well as volunteers — are needed.

"We have a core group of about 10 people working on this, and at any given time there could be an additional 20-30 volunteers," said Nicoletta. "But we need more. We would like to start thinking strategically, which is not always possible when you've been licking stamps all day."

Nicoletta said part of the reason that the donations have been coming in at "a slow trickle" is that many people are unaware of Milk or his legacy, a detail that became clear when interacting with people at the Pride festival. The project plans on adding some public education to its outreach campaign, he said, and will focus on a more national and international scope soon.

Community members are invited to help "memorialize the former San Francisco supervisor who united the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in life and transformed it with his death and galvanized the progressive movement for years to come" at a Web site set up for the project. The site includes information about Milk and the proposed memorial sculpture, as well as a secure page for donations. For more information, visit [www.milkmemorial.org](http://www.milkmemorial.org).



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## Fallen officer honored



**S**an Francisco Police officers at Mission Station took the lead in getting a bench installed in Dolores Park that was dedicated to Officer Jon C. Cook, the first openly gay city police officer to die in the line of duty. Cook died on June 12, 2002 after sustaining injuries in a collision on the way to a call. Above, from left, Supervisor Jake McGoldrick, Officer Marquita Booth, Cook's mother Rosemary, and Supervisor Bevan Duffy unveil the memorial bench during a ceremony June 12, the third anniversary of Cook's death. The bench is located in the southwest corner of the park, and the project was sponsored by the San Francisco Police Officers Association and the SFPD Pride Alliance.

## Run for 'Freedom' on July 4

compiled by Cynthia Laird

**F**reedom Road will host a 2-mile and 10K run/walk Monday, July 4 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in Golden Gate Park. The event benefits the Drug Policy Alliance, which fights the federal government's drug policies. Interested participants can register the day of the event, beginning at 7 a.m. in front of the Conservatory of Flowers on JFK Drive in the park. The course is USA Track & Field certified; registration is \$30 per person and includes a T-shirt.

DPA does not promote drug

use, but believes in treatment rather than incarceration and the wasting of lives or the destruction of the economy, according to a statement from organizer Bill Drake. Participants are also encouraged to practice their First Amendment rights and wear whatever concern they may have about freedom on their back on a piece of paper similar to what people at charity walks wear to honor friends and relatives. However, organizers ask that such messages "be in good taste," since it is a family event.

For more information, visit [www.PeopleEvents.org](http://www.PeopleEvents.org).

### AIDS Walk benefit

AIDS Walk San Francisco is coming up on Sunday, July 17 but interested people can help raise funds for the event on Sunday, July 10 from 3 to 7 p.m. at a special "Cuts and Color for a Cause" at Elevation Salon and Café. Staff members at the salon are coming in on their day off to provide haircuts (\$35) and tints (\$45) with all proceeds benefiting the AIDS Walk. There will be entertainment, food, beverages, and gift bags for customers.

To make an appointment, call (415) 392-2969. The Elevation is located at 451 Bush Street, between Kearny and Grant, in San Francisco.

For more information on the AIDS Walk, visit [www.aidswalk.net/sanfran](http://www.aidswalk.net/sanfran).

### Creating Change proposals sought

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's signature grassroots event, the Creating Change conference, is returning to Oakland in November and interested California activists are encouraged to submit proposals for various workshops and presentations.



### News Briefs

Creating Change was last held in Oakland in 1999 and drew the largest attendance in the history of the 18-year-old event. Thirty-five percent of the attendees at that conference came from California, and organizers are expecting a similar audience at this year's event, slated for November 9-13. Organizers are looking for programmatic proposals from community leaders in the greater Bay Area and throughout the state. Considerations for selection include relevance of the proposed session to the conference goal of building an anti-racist movement and other conference priorities.

The deadline for submission is July 15. For more information, visit [www.creatingchange.org](http://www.creatingchange.org). Proposals may be sent to Sue Hyde, conference director, via fax at (617) 492-0175 or via e-mail at [shyde@thetaskforce.org](mailto:shyde@thetaskforce.org).

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# New Zealand tourism woos the Bay Area

by Tyson Gillfillan

Early risers on August 4 will have the opportunity to witness a truly unique experience at San Francisco's Maritime National Museum. Cutting through the fog along the bay at dawn, Maori artists indigenous to New Zealand will navigate their traditional canoe, called a waka, to shore, greeted by members of the Bay Area's native Muwékma Ohlone tribe in a cross-cultural welcoming ceremony.

Followed by a private Ohlone blessing ceremony, this will kick off a 10-day celebration of contemporary Maori art at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. And it's all part of a greater effort by the New Zealand tourism board to attract Bay Area visitors.

On Monday, June 27, more than 50 area residents, as well as New Zealand representatives and expatriates, crowded into the Castro restaurant Tangerine to get a taste of what's in store for later this summer. Part of the nation's new marketing campaign, "100% Pure New Zealand," the tourism office hopes to connect with Bay Area travelers in particular.

Bruce LeHood, New Zealand regional tourism manager, said that the exhibition at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts will feature contemporary expressions of very ancient Maori traditions, including handcrafted cloaks, Maori tattooing, dance, and wood and jade carving. He said the program will be interactive, a key element of Maori art, with traditional artists working and performing



Robert John Taylor

on site. Representatives said this level of outreach will be unique to San Francisco.

"We did some market research, which confirmed our original feelings," said Tourism New Zealand representative Anita Wolfram. "The Bay Area is home to the largest concentration of 'interactive travelers' in the United States — and these are the people we specifically would like to have visit New Zealand."

She explained that an interactive traveler is someone who approaches tourism as a way to cultivate new experiences, becoming immersed in all that a region has to offer by making new friends, enjoying its food and wine, exploring its culture and geography. According to Wolfram, in an effort to attract interactive travelers, Air New Zealand also spies opportunity in the Bay Area, and is doubling its number of flights

from San Francisco International Airport to Auckland.

Robert John Taylor, New Zealand consul general, said that New Zealand shares many commonalities with San Francisco, from its romantic vistas to its progressive politics. He said New Zealand was the first country to give women the right to vote; the first to offer nationalized, comprehensive healthcare and education programs to its citizens; and it boasts a female head of state, prime minister, parliamentary speaker, and chief justice. Most recently its legislature legalized civil unions, giving same-sex couples full marriage rights.

## Legislative equality

Taylor, who is openly gay, was asked by the B.A.R. in a recent interview if he and his partner, Don Bedman were planning a civil union ceremony of their own. "It's funny," he said, "you fight for something your whole life and then when it happens, realize you never actually discussed the practicalities with [your partner.]" In a way, that interview sparked a

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## BAY AREA REPORTER

Volume 35, Number 26  
30 June 2005

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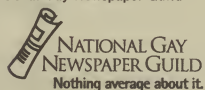
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## OPEN FORUM

## Let Willie Brown mediate

by Thomas E. Horn, publisher

For us in the LGBT community, the year culminates in June with Gay Pride where we stand together, proud to be who we are, sending a message for all the world to hear that we are here, we are out, and we are not going to stop our fight for complete equality until all our brothers and sisters are treated with dignity and respect and stand equally before the law. We end our monthlong celebration with the mother of all Pride parades, the biggest parade in the world. It's a Sunday we look forward to where the eyes of America and the world focus on us. So it was with that sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach that happens when something goes terribly wrong that I awakened Sunday morning, Pride Sunday, to read the headline story on the front page of the *San Francisco Chronicle* detailing the allegations of racial discrimination within the gay community in general and involving the Badlands bar in particular. Why, on Gay Pride Sunday of all days, did California's second largest newspaper have to focus its 1.6 million readers on Badlands?

Racism is a terrible thing that exists in our country and no doubt throughout the world. It is not unique to the gay community. It is every person's responsibility to fight discrimination wherever we find it in whatever form it takes. We like to think that in San Francisco we are more successful than elsewhere. But for over a year now, the Badlands bar controversy has consumed us. It has divided us and diverted our attention away from the constant attacks by the conservative right. It has put us in the worst possible light to those whose help we will need to fend off these attacks and to those who should be our natural allies. It is time that the parties to this dispute sit down and agree to a resolution. We are tearing ourselves apart, and it needs to stop.

At the recommendation of Mayor Gavin Newsom, former Mayor Willie Brown has offered his services to mediate the dispute. The parties should accept this offer of mediation. No one has better credentials to act as mediator than Willie Brown. The gay community has no better friend than Willie Brown. For nearly 30 years in the California Legislature, he was our friend and champion. It was because of the constant and often lonely struggle led by Willie Brown that Cal-

ifornia's law prohibiting consensual sexual conduct between adults was repealed. He has been in the forefront of every gay rights struggle of the last 40 years.

And Willie Brown knows something of racial discrimination. He was raised in the segregated South. He came west to go to school at a time when racial discrimination was perhaps not as visible but just as real nevertheless. He will see it if it exists and no one will sugar coat over it.

At the same time, Willie Brown does not suffer fools lightly. If there are hidden agendas or ulterior motives, he will spot them in a second.

But most important, Willie Brown is a problem solver, a solution finder. His long career in public service has given him mediation skills second to none. Remember it was Willie Brown who finally resolved the BART strike in 1997 when everyone else had given up. And it was Willie Brown that successfully mediated the musicians' strike at the San Francisco Symphony that dragged on for months. He will be fair to both sides while trying to keep the parties focused on the

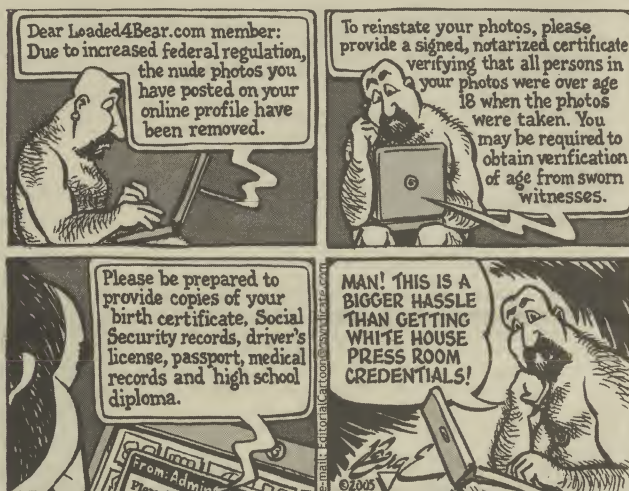
goal of reaching a resolution.

In the Badlands dispute, both sides have dug in their heels. It is causing serious harm to our community at a time when we need to be united. If Assemblyman Mark Leno's marriage equality bill becomes law this year, the Christian right has vowed to qualify an initiative for the ballot to repeal it. If the bill doesn't succeed this year, an even greater threat looms in that a constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage in California will be placed on the ballot. We need to be united to combat these threats to our very way of life. And we need to rally those sympathetic to us rather than drive them away by this public laundering of our own dirty linen.

We think it is time to move on. No side is one hundred percent right in any dispute. But people of good will can find common ground. We urge the parties to accept the offer of Willie Brown to mediate this dispute and to work with him to craft a resolution that will allow us as a community to focus on the common enemy and form a united front against the serious threats that we are sure to face. ▼



## Editorial



## Prevention is more than slogans

by Thomas J. Coates

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention held a national prevention conference a couple weeks ago in Atlanta. The news about Los Angeles was especially bad. A survey of 19,000 gay men at the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center showed that methamphetamine use jumped from 5.8 percent in 2001 to 10.3 percent in 2004. Crystal meth use jumped from 5.5 percent to 9.4 percent among HIV-negatives, but among HIV-positives it went from 11.7 percent to 30.2 percent. The CDC also announced that, for the first time, the number of people living with HIV in the United States went over 1 million.

I have a broad range of emotional responses to this difficult news. I must admit, as a gay man, that it is difficult to explain to others outside of the gay community what is going on within the gay community. "After all," they say, "more has been done about HIV than any other disease and still there are problems. Does more funding mean throwing good money after bad?"

Lack of personal responsibility is one issue. People who have a lethal disease do have a responsibility to take care of themselves and also not to spread HIV to others. It has been hard for us to spread this message, because we are afraid of stigmatizing people with HIV. But people with HIV should keep it to themselves, and we need to have the courage to say that.

But saying that does not absolve the CDC and the U.S. government of their responsibility.

We know that effective programs, based on solid science, are not funded for ideological reasons. Federal funds cannot be used to support syringe exchange programs. Sex education in schools is typically abstinence based, and does not touch on safety and security in same-sex relationships.

The CDC has been promoting "prevention for positives," making sure that prevention counseling is integrated into delivery of services for HIV infected individuals. But it is almost as though one side of the public health system is not talking to the other. Congress and many state legislatures are considering cuts to Medicaid, and the truth is that the very people likely to get infected with HIV and need medical care and prevention services are those with the least access to medical care. Universal medical care might be a solution if we had the political will to pursue it.

My colleagues and I conducted Project Explore, the largest prevention study conducted anywhere of gay men. We found that we could prevent HIV from occurring, but that our counseling strategies were not as effective as they needed to be and they didn't last beyond 18 months. The counseling did not change depression or crystal meth use, and both of these predicted whether or not people would get HIV over the period of follow up.

If we were serious about HIV prevention among gay men, more funds would flow into mental health and substance use ser-

vices. People who need treatment for depression must rely on public clinics, where waiting times are long, antidepressants unaffordable, and therapy inaccessible. Waiting times for substance abuse services are even longer.

Evidence was presented at the Atlanta meeting supporting legislation that makes it harder to acquire pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient of crystal meth. Such legislation should be considered everywhere.

If the U.S. were serious about HIV prevention among gay men, it would embrace rather than oppose gay marriage. The new pope has recently spoken out once again against gay marriage, and St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Orange County, California finally decided to admit the adopted children of a gay couple, on the proviso that the gay couple and their children not act as a family at school events. What are they supposed to do? Pretend that they do not know each other?

What better way to encourage individuals toward monogamy than to promote marriage? We know from experience with heterosexuals that marriage is not the total answer, but one of the papers at the CDC prevention conference did show lower rates of syphilis among gay men in European countries where gay marriage is allowed than ones where it is not.

Finally, we must ask the gay community itself to reflect on its values and how it supports its members. In some ways, gay liber-

## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## The center is a failure

So, I'm walking up Market Street on Gay Day past the gay community center, and it's closed. On gay day. Not only that, it's closed the day after. It can't seem to stay open on a weekend that would be the most useful.

A community center this place is not. Is anyone else out there as disappointed as I am with this place? It's always closed on Sundays, really, an awesome day for it to be open. But Mondays, yeah, comedy night. Everyone loves going out on Monday nights, right?

What a pathetic place it is. It's almost all lobby, and every time I do step in, nothing is going on, a few people are milling about, and there's lots of literature on - stuff. I don't have an addiction, I don't have children, I'm not a person of color, so really, what this place is, is a special interest building. Oh, I know, I'm just a regular white gay man who has the entire Castro District to hang in. So I'm out.

I remember a long time ago, there was a real community center on Page Street, where little dances or events would happen. I met a boyfriend there. It was comfortable, a place to go and feel safe.

I don't see advertisements for this place plastered everywhere, which we should see. That place should be buzzing all the time. But it's a vacuum. A waste of space. Whoever is running this place and reads this, if you're thinking of excuses in your head about why it is the way it is, then you don't deserve your position. An accountant may as well be running the place.

Listen, it should have gay men, women, boys, and girls running in and out of that place all the time. It should be a place to meet each other, socialize, hang out, and maybe hook up. It should be bringing as many people together as possible. It should be open until at least midnight or 2 a.m., so that we have a place to go where one does not have to drink and then get an addiction and go to AA meetings at the center.

It is not doing what it really should be doing. It is a failure.

Brad Eggebrecht  
San Francisco

## Frameline, think big

Maybe I'm getting tired of the incessant pitches for Frameline's "Campaign for the Future of Queer Film," a laudable effort to "change the word one film at a time," or maybe repeated exposure is drawing out my critical nature. In any case, I agree a project to enlighten the masses, especially young people, about queer people is a really good idea - there is something about the execution of this project that makes me uncomfortable.

It strikes me whenever someone on stage starts talking about the numbers. The other night at a film, someone was talking about the fundraising goals of this campaign. Various numbers were tossed out including \$1.25 million overall, with \$100,000 as an immediate objective. I kept thinking, "Hollywood would spend \$1.25 million in a single day making a film." How are we going to influence so many people with such a paltry amount of money?

Why is Frameline thinking so small? Then it comes out in the rest of the speech. "We are going to make Frameline the best gay and lesbian film festival in the universe." What the hell does that mean? Does it mean we're going to bash Outfest or New Festival as inferior? Or continue to pretend that San Francisco miraculously occupies the center of the queer cultural universe?

Again, I applaud Frameline's intent to get the message out to the nation about the value of queers, but why do it alone? There are dozens of organized queer film festivals around the country and hundreds of others not specifically targeted at queer people but inclusive. Why not create a nationwide network of festivals? Why not expand fundraising to all those festivals? Why not make the goal \$5 million or \$10 million or \$50 million to really effect change?

James Dobson, of Focus on the Family, spends more than \$125 million every year, primarily trying to frighten people by demonizing queers. This is just one of the many far right organizations using queer people to advance their political agendas.

If Frameline is truly the mother of all gay and lesbian film festivals, it will leverage more than its real estate. It will leverage its leadership to enlist the support, cooperation, and support of like-minded organizations across the country to create a much larger and more effective campaign to change the world, one film at a time.

Chas Nol  
San Francisco

## The story of our lives

LGBT people are not a lifestyle. We are a people with our own culture, and it's time the straight media gets it right. The groundbreaking exhibit *Out at the Library* is powerful evidence. LGBT folks have been around since the beginning of time, and this exhibition is the first to chart a small portion of that history. Its focus is Northern California, and what is presented so elegantly is an outstanding sample of all we need to know. Our history can no longer be denied.

Your grandmother may have told you about coming

over on the boat from Italy. Your Hebrew school classes described the history of Jewish people. But my family never schooled me in the history of queer folks, and priests never inform students of early Christian unions of same-sex couples. Until very recently, all schools shunned or derided LGBT students. Yet we are a culture, and we have a history. It's time everyone knows that.

*Out at the Library* honors the men and women of San Francisco who largely defined the gay rights movement in America. Four years before Stonewall, San Francisco police raided a New Year's Day party at California Hall and made arrests. When ministers of four protestant denominations accused the Police Department of "intimidation, broken promises and obvious hostility," San Franciscans responded; the suit against those arrested was dismissed. Without Stonewall's proximity to major media, (you can forget the fabulous, but untrue urban legend of drag queens angry at Judy Garland's death), we would be celebrating "California Hall" not Stonewall as the true beginning of the gay rights movement.

What is breathtaking about this exhibit is that it ushers in the post-Stonewall era with evidence that we are a people with a culture, no longer a marginal minority. San Franciscans elected Harvey Milk supervisor, the first out gay person elected in California and only the second in America and his papers are on display, including his calendar open to the date he was assassinated. In post-Stonewall America several hundred of us hold public office everywhere from Massachusetts to Washington, including the U.S. Congress. In post-Stonewall America Mayor Newsom made his historic decision to permit gay marriage, and that history-in-the-making is chronicled in the library in newspapers, a marriage license, photographs, and personal stories.

Most people know about Alexander the Great and Gertrude Stein, but next time you're talking with friends or family, let them know that Hadrian, Richard the Lion Heart, Florence Nightingale, and Willa Cather were all known to have had same-sex relationships. And did you know Magnus Hirschfeld founded the Scientific Humanitarian Committee in Berlin in 1897, the first gay rights organization? Did you know his library, the only one of its kind, was among the first burned by the Nazis? This important history is now available to everyone. View the exhibit and urge your friends elsewhere to check the thumbnail *Out at the Library* at [www.sfp.org](http://www.sfp.org). And if constitutional amendments aren't bad enough, explore the exhibition on Nazi persecution of homosexuals on the sixth floor of the library curated by the U.S. Holocaust Museum.

If you thought LGBT life began in a dirty bookstore, or an encounter with an insightful teacher, you are mistaken. We've been queer for the millennia, and only now are we beginning to decode our history. We have a culture, and each of us needs to know where we came from. In post-Stonewall America we will be known as a people with our own unique culture. Far more than the media's lifestyle, we are a people, and *Out at the Library* is the best place to learn about our history and culture.

Chuck Forester  
San Francisco

## Let regulatory agencies decide

Will everyone (on all sides) please stop the rhetoric and mudslinging about the Badlands controversy and let the case be heard in court, or by other regulatory bodies that can actually evaluate the evidence, listen to witnesses under oath, then render a decision?

The Human Rights Commission didn't do that. The Board of Supervisors didn't do that. And we're left with a divisive "he said-he said" debate that doesn't get to the root of what really happened.

I don't know what really went on between Les Nati and those who claim he discriminated against them, and I don't have an opinion about which side is "right." I just think we need to allow the charges to be heard and evaluated by people who have real authority to rule on them. Why is that taking so long?

Craig Udit  
San Francisco

## Eminent domain for everyone

We all remember how the city deficit was reduced significantly a few weeks ago by an unexpected increase in property tax revenue from recent sales of real estate.

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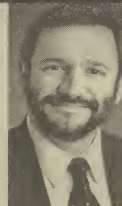
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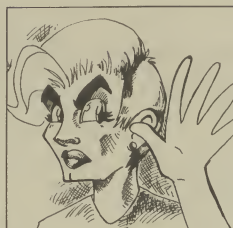
# Hold the marching orders

by Paula Martinac

In a recent op-ed in the *Washington Blade*, organizer Robin Tyler made an appeal for a fifth LGBT March on Washington to take place before the 2008 election, "demanding all our civil rights." I understand her anger with the climate that's been set by Washington; gay people are indeed, as she put it, "under siege."

But before we take up the call for another showy, star-studded event in the nation's capital, we should consider where queer money and energy could best be used at this time of right-wing hegemony. I believe that the strategy of holding national LGBT marches should be put on indefinite hold, and that we would be better served as a community to shift increasingly more of our resources to local demonstrations and organizing.

I've personally attended two of the four national marches for LGBT rights that have taken place since 1979. The 1987 demonstration was a somber event — the devastating sight of so many queer people with photos pinned to their T-shirts of friends and lovers who'd succumbed to AIDS is still a vivid memory for me. The chilly, overcast day reflected the mood of our community perfectly. In the one photo I have of myself at that march, I'm sitting down wearily with my head in my hands.



Christine Smith

Six years later, the day of the 1993 march was bright and sunny; Bill Clinton had just taken office with the promise of ending the gay military ban, and many of us believed we could actually see a ray of hope. In fact, the march had more of the air of a party than a political march. And although it was a lot of fun, it was still a bit pointless for those of us who wanted something more substantial than the color and glitz of a Pride celebration.

## Lesbian Notions

Like many others in our community, I sat out the march in 2000, which had been dictated by a few national organizations that never bothered to consult local gay organizers about whether another D.C. get-together was really a good idea. Later, the so-called Millennium March was fraught with financial scandal, as tens of thousands of dollars mysteriously went missing from its coffers.

Have we learned anything as a movement in the five years since then, particularly given the devastat-

tating results of the 2004 election?

Hopefully, we know now that there's much truth to the old maxim about all politics being local. That's not to say that our national gay groups should close up shop. But a corporate-sponsored party in Washington — starring, as Tyler suggests, gay icons like Cher, Madonna, and Barbra Streisand, no less! — couldn't adequately address the serious challenges our community faces.

Just think about it: Do you see the American Family Association wasting energy and time hosting an antigay blow-out on the Washington Mall, starring, say, Pat Boone and Bo Derek? No, the AFA is too busy organizing locally focused actions like its "Meet at City Hall" event for a "moral rebirth" of the country, calling on local religious groups and congregations to spread the word. Indeed, the right has been so successful in its antigay campaign because it has honed its local and Internet organizing skills to precision. How do you suppose they routinely manage to garner all those signatures to get antigay initiatives on ballots across the country?

Our own major organizations — like the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force — have been correct, then, to begin channeling more and more of their energies and resources into shoring up our state and local efforts. And even one national staffer taken out of commission to plan a Washington event — and it would, of course, take many more than one — would

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## POLITICS

## ¿Como se dice 'marriage'?

by Bill Barnes

This coming week is our next good chance for marriage equality. After the California Assembly shelved AB19, Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) skillfully shifted gears, using a technical procedure to keep hope alive. The effort has now moved to the state Senate, where lesbian Senators **Carole Migden** (D-San Francisco) and **Sheila Kuehl** (D-Santa Monica) likely will deliver.

The seven-member Senate Judiciary Committee is poised to act on July 5. With a 5-2 Democratic majority, four of seven senators should vote yes. Committee Chair **Joe Dunn** (D-Santa Ana) supports equality. Kuehl always does us proud. Two more Democrats must support the bill. Democratic Senators **Gil Cedillo** (Los Angeles), **Martha Escutia** (Whittier), and **Liz Figueroa** (Fremont) complete the panel, and all three voted against the constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. Republican Vice Chair **Bill Morrow** (Oceanside) authored the gay marriage ban, and the other Republican voted for it.

The fact that three of five committee Democrats are Latino is significant. After AB19 failed, LGBT newspaper *Houston Voice* blared "Latinos played key role in California marriage defeat." This simplistic analysis ignored the difference between California's conservative Central Valley and more progressive communities. Cedillo and Escutia represent Los Angeles; Figueroa represents Fremont. Cedillo wants to provide undocumented immigrants with drivers' licenses. Escutia challenged Senator **Don Perata** (D-Oakland) for Senate leader, and proposed reforming Proposition 13 to reassess commercial property. Figueroa, running to replace termed out Lieutenant Governor **Cruz Bustamante**, is known for her successful bill allowing patients to sue HMOs.

Recently, the United Farm Workers endorsed marriage equality. **Christine Chavez**, granddaughter of the late Cesar Chavez, said, "This is about one civil rights movement joining forces with another to affirm shared values of social justice." UFW support provided what Leno called a "tremendous boost," and the ongoing support of the NAACP has been highlighted. All indications are that marriage equality will win in the Senate.

Yet seven of nine Assembly Democrats who voted against, didn't vote, or abstained were Latino or African American. The LGBT community's "leaders" and groups must do a better job — which means including people of color in visible, high levels — if the LGBT community is going to convince the Democratic Party's other key constituencies. This must start now, and continue through the campaign to beat the constitutional amendment.

Unfortunately, it appears LGBT Californians will have to rely only on Democrats for marriage equality. After the AB19 vote, Log Cabin Republicans lobbyist **Jeff Bissiri** offered this bone-headed comment in blaming Democrats: "The simple math is that if Democrats want a bill to pass



Supervisor Bevan Duffy's contingent gets into the Pride spirit at the parade.

the Assembly it will pass." Let's see if Bissiri can get just one Republican in either house to support marriage equality. Maybe he can get them to stop introducing constitutional amendments. I'm not holding my breath.

One of the two white Democrats who didn't support marriage equality was Orange County Assemblyman **Tom Umberg**. Umberg, an Army reservist who won despite practically missing the campaign when he was called up for duty, is now running for state Senate. Last week, the married Umberg admitted to an affair when his mistress planned to come forward.

At the press conference, Umberg was joined by wife **Robin**, who spent much of the campaign lugging around a cardboard cutout of her husband. After he was elected, his campaign circulated a statement saying he was "returning from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where he was serving as a military prosecutor." Yet the hometown newspaper reports that Umberg "spent most of his time in the Washington, D.C. area ... attended dinners with politicians, watched baseball games, ran a 10-mile footrace, and carried out an extramarital affair with a former Assembly staffer." Why is it that the politicians who don't support marriage equality need so many excuses about their own marriages?

## Scenes from Pride

The Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club hosted a breakfast backed by the widest cross-section of politicians ever, so much so that the Harvey Milk LGBT club suspended their own breakfast and supported the Alice event. Although I missed the Alice breakfast, co-chair **Laura Spanjian** reports that among other things, both state Senate candidates Assemblyman **Leland Yee** (D-San Francisco) and former San Mateo County Supervisor **Mike Nevin** attended. Assembly hopeful **Janet Reilly** arrived with family in tow, and state Senator **Carole Migden** made her first appearance in several years. Surprisingly, Mayor **Gavin Newsom** didn't make it to the event.

I marched with state Senator **Carole Migden** and Board of Equalization member **Betty Yee**, whose contingent wins the award for most elected officials marching without the need to carry their own signs. Supervisor **Chris Daly** showed up with his son. Deputy Attorney General and San Rafael School Board President **Damon Connolly** was there. Petaluma

City Councilwoman **Pam Toriatt**, a reliable transportation advocate who was the deciding vote in favor of regional affordable housing development goals as part of transit development, also participated. Rohnert Park council members, former Democratic Party Chair **Jane Morrison**, former Supervisor **Sue Bierman**, former gubernatorial aide **Robert Oakes**, and many ordinary folks rounded out the contingent.

Supervisor **Bevan Duffy** definitely had the best use of choreography. Reprising a strategy from a few years back, Duffy organized young people and other supporters to dance to hip-hop as part of his contingent, which included the GLBT Historical Society. Duffy staffer **Boe Hayward** built a great float.

## Go Westly

State Controller **Steve Westly** made the call: he's running for governor in the Democratic primary against state Treasurer **Phil Angelides**. Westly broke tradition, using the Internet and a conference call to kick off his bid at more than 150 house parties. As a Stanford student activist, Westly won a campaign to get the university to divest from companies in apartheid-ridden South Africa. He later became an Internet executive who helped launch the online auction house eBay. With Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** running as an outsider but now acting like an insider, Westly could provide the alternative California needs.

## Come out this week

Thursday June 30 is the fundraising deadline and Supervisor **Fiona Ma** hosts an under the wire fundraiser with former state Senator **John Burton** at Moose's in North Beach. The event, from 6 to 8 p.m. at 1652 Stockton, is donor's choice.

## Across the bridge

Oakland City Attorney **John Russo** joined San Francisco friends Monday for campaign support to succeed Assemblywoman **Wilma Chan** (D-Oakland). Board of Supervisors President **Aaron Peskin** introduced Russo. Former Supervisors **Leslie Katz** and **Barbara Kaufman** and Public Defender **Jeff Adachi** were there. San Francisco City Attorney **Dennis Herrera** and former City Attorney **Louise Renne** co-sponsored the event. Russo called for single-payer healthcare and lambasted the dysfunctional Sacramento culture by discussing his work as a former president of the League of California Cities, which supports innovative local solutions to the state's problems. Russo faces off against **Sandre**



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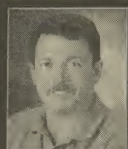
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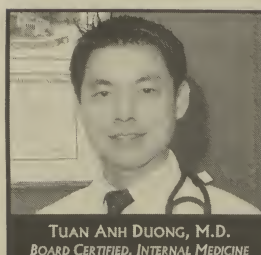
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# What is the history of Queer Nation?

by Liz Highleyman

June 1990: "Queers Read This" manifesto is distributed at New York City's Gay Pride Parade.

The activist group Queer Nation evolved as the gay and lesbian movement confronted the scourge of AIDS, the rise of the religious right, and changing notions of identity. Though short-lived, Queer Nation made a lasting impact on the movement and the language it uses to describe itself.

Queer Nation was born in New York City in the spring of 1990. The idea for the group is said to have hatched at an ACT UP meeting, and Queer Nation made its first public appearance at an April demonstration against anti-gay violence. But the new face of queer activism burst onto the national radar with an inflammatory broadsheet distributed at the city's Gay Pride Parade that June.

The four-page broadsheet — "published anonymously by queers" — proclaimed "Queers Read This" on the front and "I Hate Straights" on the back. "Until I can enjoy the same freedom of movement and sexuality as straights, their privilege must stop and it must be given over to me and my queer sisters and brothers," the diatribe read. "Straight people will not do this voluntarily and so they must be forced into it ... Terrorized into it ... Rights are not given, they are taken, by force if necessary ... Straight people are your enemy."

"Queers Read This" was photocopied, passed from hand to hand, faxed, and mailed across the country. A Queer Nation chapter soon formed in San Francisco, followed by groups in other major cities. With a considerable overlap in membership, Queer Nation adopted ACT UP's sense of urgency and its theatrical spirit. Like ACT UP, Queer Nation was a leaderless network of autonomous chapters, in turn made up of ad hoc working groups. By the summer of 1991, there were chapters

in some 40 cities, including conservative locales such as Des Moines and Salt Lake City. "Our strength lies in our numbers, our diversity, and in our public and proud contempt for the closet," read the group's mission statement.

With its slogan, "We're here! We're queer! Get used to it!" Queer Nation came to be seen as the shock troops of the movement. Popular actions included the Suburban Homosexual Outreach Project (same-sex kiss-ins at shopping malls) and Queer Nights Out (invasions of straight bars and other venues). Queer Nation protested everything from

gay bashing and the 1991 Gulf War to the censorship of queer art and negative portrayals of lesbian and bisexual women in the film *Basic Instinct*, while promoting queer-positive sex education and defending abortion clinics alongside pro-choice activists. Its

Urban Redevelopment Committees ensured that the group's brightly colored stickers and posters — featuring declarations of queer pride and sometimes sexually explicit images — adorned telephone poles, subway cars, and activists' leather jackets from coast to coast.

The uncompromising message of "Queers Read This" and Queer Nation's in-your-face tactics re-ignited an old debate within the LGBT community over the merits of radicalism versus reformism. "Being queer means leading a different sort of life," the broadsheet declared. "It's not about the mainstream, profit margins, patriotism, patriarchy or being assimilated." In an article in the Winter 1991 issue of the now-defunct magazine *Out/Look*, Alan Berube and Jeffrey Escoffier wrote that the group's "new culture is slick, quick, anarchic, transgressive, ironic. ... If they manage not to blow up in contradiction or get bogged down in the process, they may lead the way to new forms of activism for the 1990s."

Queer Nation did blow up, but still managed to influence the course of LGBT activism. The group's very name embodied its contradictory goals of achieving

diversity while solidifying a distinct identity that sometimes bordered on separatism. Members frequently debated who belonged under the "queer" umbrella. Queer Nation generally embraced bisexuals and transgender people, and took pains to emphasize inclusion of people of color and all classes; there was more controversy, however, about whether the term could encompass radical heterosexuals. As much as a sexual orientation, "queer" came to denote sex-positivity, pride in being an outsider, righteous anger, and a determination to fight back. But some felt that Queer Nation really only welcomed the young and hip, and that its members were a new generation of clones. The group was also accused of emphasizing style over substance — what Escoffier called a "politics of symbolic gestures" — and failing to engage in the difficult work of long-term organizing.

By 1993, Queer Nation was largely moribund. Just as the in-your-face activism of the Gay Liberation Front in the early 1970s was followed by an "insider" strategy in the 1980s, the radical activism of ACT UP, Queer Nation, and the Lesbian Avengers gave way to more mainstream activism focused on inclusion in the military and same-sex marriage. But Queer Nation nevertheless made a lasting impact on the movement. The once-shocking term "queer" has become de rigueur, and many gay and lesbian groups now include bisexual and transgender people as a matter of course. In the words of former National Gay and Lesbian Task Force director Torie Osborn, "Queer Nation forced us to deal with issues relating to gender, violence, and visibility that pushed our movement forward." ▼

### Suggested reading

Escoffier, Jeffrey. 1998. *American Homo: Community and Perversity* (University of California).

Queers Read This! 1990. Anonymous broadsheet. [www.actupny.org/documents/QueersReadThis.pdf](http://www.actupny.org/documents/QueersReadThis.pdf)

## Lesbian Notions

◀ page 8

be one staffer too many.

Tyler reasons that a national march would be important for demonstrating our "strong and united presence." But there are many other ways to show queer strength and resolve. (I won't go into "united," which I think, given

the diversity of our community, is an unattainable goal.) For example, a single day of demonstrations in the capitals of states that have antigay laws on the books or anti-marriage-rights bills pending would be far more effective than a party with Babs on the Mall (even if she sang "People" just for us).

Remember that there are still a lot of folks out there who think gay people don't exist — or shouldn't

live — anywhere but San Francisco and New York. Just recently, Texas Governor Rick Perry (R) had the audacity to suggest that returning gay veterans of the Iraq war might be happier vacating his state if they don't approve of its laws.

How much more effective it is, then, to fight 'phobes like that on their own turf — not by gathering in D.C., when all the politicians have left for the weekend. ▼

## New Zealand

◀ page 5

private discussion and now he and Bedman plan to make their union legal when they return to New Zealand.

"What a lot of people don't realize, and what I think is the most monumental aspect of our civil union law," said Taylor, "is the companion piece, which went through every piece of existing legislation and removed all traces

of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation."

According to Taylor, as early as 1999 nationwide polls in his country showed 65 percent to 70 percent in favor of legalizing civil unions. Calling the legislation a "tactical compromise," he said that the decision to create civil unions instead of expanding the marriage act was made in part because it was an easier step for many people. But he also said many same-sex couples felt that although they wanted the same

civil rights, they did not want to be associated with such a deeply ingrained heterosexual institution.

Taylor said he hoped that August's exhibition would pique interest not only in travel to New Zealand, but perhaps immigration as well. He cited the high quality of life, low unemployment, a strong technological sector, and liberal immigration policies that treat same-sex families on equal footing as heterosexual counterparts. ▼



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Pride blotter

by Jane Warner

Although most merchants reported having a great Pride weekend, a few had some problems. Here are just a few incidents that were reported.

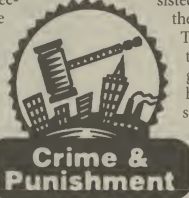
**Home Restaurant, 2100 Market Street, Pink Saturday, 7:30 p.m.:** A man came into the restaurant and ordered a dinner of grilled pork chops, a side of bruschetta, creamed soup, iced tea, and four Ketel One vodkas. When the pork chops arrived, however, he took a few bites and stated, "These chops are too tough, bring me the pot roast." After the man ate his dinner, he looked around to see where the waiters were, got up, and then ran out the door. The manager of the restaurant saw the dine-and-dasher and gave chase, catching a hold of the thief's duffle bag as he ran from the restaurant. A tug of war ensued but the manager was

able to wrestle the bag away. "I need my medication!" the suspect screamed. "I need the bill paid," the manager replied. The thief, described as a white male, in his 50s, wearing a dress shirt, blue jeans, and brown sandals, left the area in an unknown direction. Once inside the restaurant, the manager went through the bag, finding miscellaneous clothing, numerous candy bars, and four plastic containers containing a green leafy substance. As of the end of the night, the suspect had failed to return to the restaurant and pay his debt.

**Chevron, 2399 Market Street, June 27, 12:27 a.m.:** During the Pink Saturday festivities, two police officers watched as a man, for no apparent reason, pushed a woman to the pavement. The man

kept walking, waving his hands in the air and screaming unintelligible grunts. The two police officers gave chase and caught the assailant in front of Chevron. As the officers attempted to arrest him for the assault, the suspect resisted and punched one of the officers in the head.

The officers quickly took the suspect to the ground and placed him in handcuffs. The suspect smelled of alcohol and his eyes were bloodshot and watery. "Have you been drinking?" the officer asked. "Yes," replied the suspect. The 31-year-old drunk was transported to Mission Station and booked for two counts of battery, one on a police officer, resisting arrest, and drunk in public. Neither the woman nor the police officer was seriously injured. ▼



# Straight gay bashing victim settles case, honors CUAV

by Zak Szymanski

Fresh from a recent \$250,000 lawsuit settlement in his favor, gay bashing victim Daniel Gohstand last week donated \$5,000 to Community United Against Violence. The LGBT organization offered him assistance after he was brutally beaten outside of a popular San Francisco lounge bar two years ago.

"They counseled him a lot, and they were a good support for him after the attack," said Gary Cloutier, Gohstand's attorney, adding that his client probably never imagined he would need CUAV's services.

Gohstand, 39, a well-known wedding photographer, is heterosexual. In February 2003 he was leaving Martuni's at Valencia and Market streets after having drinks with his girlfriend when he was confronted by two men who reportedly initiated a verbal exchange. Gohstand was the target of their antigay remarks, which quickly escalated into a physical assault. He suffered a black eye, split lip, and a fractured rib, and later was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Gohstand's assailants—students at the University of California, Berkeley who mistakenly assumed Gohstand was gay—faced felony charges in the San Francisco criminal justice system. But in an unusual move, Cloutier took the civil case and pursued it in San Francisco Superior Court before the criminal proceedings concluded.

Cloutier—who works for the law firm Dunn, Roagaski, Prevoulos, Webster & Patterson LLP of Vallejo—added that he took the case on a contingency fee basis and that the overwhelming evidence gave him faith that his case would prevail. During the beginning of the trial before Judge Ellen Chaitin, a settlement was reached earlier this year.

It was in the assailants' best interest to settle the case, said Cloutier, noting that Gohstand filed a civil suit under California's Civil Code Section 51.7, which provides legal redress against perpetrators of acts of violence on individuals or property, based on a person's race,



Photographer Daniel Gohstand, left, with his attorney Gary Cloutier.

color, religion, ancestry, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation or because another person perceives them to have one or more of these characteristics.

Otherwise known as the hate crimes statute, this civil code allows victims to not only seek general damages but receive an automatic \$25,000 civil penalty judgment as

well as attorney fees. Cloutier's hourly rate of \$250, multiplied by the 400 hours he put into the case, "provided a big incentive," he said, as did the fact that the men no longer had to face a criminal trial once the civil case was settled.

"The criminal proceedings concluded with this civil case," said Cloutier. "In what is known as a civil compromise, the parties go before a judge to say that the victim is being compensated for his injuries, and then the judge has the discretion to divert the case or dismiss."

For Cloutier, the case demonstrates the necessity and power of hate crimes legislation.

"A lot of times what you hear from opponents of these types of hate crimes laws is that it's a special right that applies to a limited number of people," said Cloutier. "If this case shows anything it shows that laws that protect gay people against violence really do protect everyone." ▼

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Engaging in some friendly spanking at the Dyke March.

Jare Philomen Cleland



The scene in the Castro at around midnight on Pink Saturday.

Cesar Alexander

## Pride

◀ page 1

donations.

"They sold more than last year," Cain said of his conversations with beverage vendors.

Another indication of increased attendance was in gate collections, which were also up over last year. "We took in \$30,000 more this year, for a total of \$104,000," Cain said.

A sampling of area residents who attended Saturday and Sunday Pride festivities showed most people were upbeat.

"Who knew that this many people would ever come out and celebrate being gay? This is my first time and I just can't believe it," said Jason Anders of Fremont.

Some even brought their parents. "It really means a lot to me that my parents came this year," said Richard Schrader of Berkeley. "They're both Republicans and I thought for sure they'd say no when I asked."

Joe Castel of Los Angeles said he makes a special effort to attend San Francisco's Pride events. "No other city can compare to San Francisco's Pride."

There were some Christian fundamentalist protesters along the parade route, which drew puzzlement from a parade goer. "I just don't understand how people could have a problem with love," said Carolyn Rogers of San Francisco.

Cain said that sponsorships for this year's parade were way up. And that wasn't lost on city resident Jim Ferris.

"It's funny to think how it's come full circle - 25 years ago these were marches for equality," he said. "Today, they're a celebration of diversity. There's still a po-



Rick Gerbuser

Always a colorful sight: Drag queens on parade!

litical aspect, but every other float is sponsored by Absolut."

And politics was very much in evidence at Sunday's parade. From the many openly gay politicians who marched - Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Bevan Dufty; state legislators Carole Migden, Mark Leno, and John Laird; city Treasurer Jose Cisneros - to straight allies - District Attorney Kamala Harris, City Attorney Dennis Herrera, and Mayor Gavin Newsom - the parade showed the clout of the LGBT community.

There was one hitch, however. According to the members of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, who marched with Ammiano, KRON 4, which was broadcasting the first two hours of the parade live, cut to a commercial

just as Ammiano's contingent was going past the cameras. Some Milk Club members perceived that as a slight to Ammiano, who was rejected by the station as one of the broadcast co-anchors when station officials deemed him "too political."

"Opting to take in San Francisco's 35th annual LGBT Pride Parade from the convenience of my living room couch, I was absolutely stunned when the coverage returned from commercial break to announce that Supervisor Ammiano had just gone by with the Harvey Milk Club in tow," Rick Galbreath wrote in a letter posted on [sanfranciscosentinel.com](http://sanfranciscosentinel.com). "How convenient. The snub is now complete."

Members of the Milk Club

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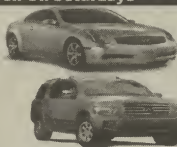
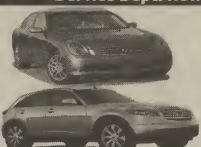
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## COMMUNITY NEWS

who marched with Ammiano carried placards critical of KRON's decision.

Milk Club Vice President Saskia Traill reported on leftins.com that a KRON staffer "came running up to the car and told the folks to take down the signs. The marchers refused. KRON apparently thinks that the live TV-eight-second-Janet-Jackson-boob-delay is a license to edit live TV, since they cut to commercial."

Neither Pat Patton, KRON's vice president of programming, nor producer Javier Valencia returned calls seeking comment.

#### Other marches

Pride events started Friday, June 24 with the second annual Transgender March. The event began with a rally and performances in Dolores Park. A crowd estimated between 3,400 and 5,200 people attended the event, according to organizer Sam Davis.

The Viragos – featuring guitarist/vocalist Shawna Virago – rocked the stage, as did the legendary dyke punk band Tribe 8, which reunited for the event. Hip-hop artist MC Katastrophe – acknowledging that it can be difficult for transsexuals to maintain a place in the queer community – thanked organizers of trans-related events for fostering an understanding and providing space for a diverse mix of voices and opinions. Politicians, including Leno and Harris, made speeches in support of the community and pledged to continue to fight for transgender equality.

"It was a thoroughly fantastic experience and our messages of respect and equality for transgender people and people of all genders were communicated crystal clear," said Davis. "It was beautiful



Organizers called the second annual Trans March a success.

and heart-warming and powerful and political all at the same time. I think we're really reaching a critical mass as a gender movement, and it's much bigger than just here; this is not an isolated event."

On Saturday, June 25, an estimated 50,000 women, transgenders, and genderqueers filled Dolores Park for the annual Dyke March, which included an afternoon of performances and political speeches.

"Stand together and know that our unity is under attack," said Dyke March committee member Tina D'Elia during the keynote address. "We cannot sit on the fence; the fence is on fire too – genocide, rape, the trafficking of women and children, U.S. imperialism, domestic violence, breast

cancer, ecocide, AIDS, homelessness, white supremacy, male supremacy, anti-immigrant violence, lack of health care – the fence is on fire too."

A diverse crowd of all ages and backgrounds – dressed in costumes, or sometimes, not dressed much at all – spilled out into the street at 7 p.m. to march through the Mission District and into the Castro's Pink Saturday street party. Supporters cheered from the sidelines while neighborhood residents took advantage of their window views to cheer the crowd from above. ▼

Zak Szymanski and Tyson Gillfillan contributed to this report.



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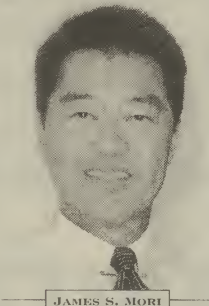


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# Glitch adds to fests' feud

by Matthew S. Bajko

**F**ailure to screen a film by the co-founder of Oakland's black LGBT film festival at this year's Frameline is adding to the acrimony between the two Bay Area gay film festivals.

The film by Debra Wilson, a cofounder and programming director of the Oakland International Black LGBT Film Festival, did not screen as planned during the 1:15 p.m. program called "Wedding Bell Blues" at the Roxie on Saturday, June 25. The 30-minute short, titled *Jumpin' The Broom: The New Covenant*, was to be the last of four films looking at the issue of gay marriage.

Apparent technical difficulties prevented Frameline from showing Wilson's entered movie. Festival staffers did show an earlier version of her film. The older version "which we had, was all we could get up on the screen in an appropriate amount of time," said Michael Lumpkin, Frameline executive director.

During the 15 minutes it took for Frameline staffers to retrieve the older copy and bring it to the Roxie, a Q&A session was held with the other directors whose films had already screened. Once the copy of Wilson's film arrived, it was shown, whereupon Wilson initially asked for the film to be stopped. Lumpkin said his staff suggested it would be best to continue to show the film.

"Debra agreed, got up, and explained what the audience was seeing. All that happened before I got there," said Lumpkin.

Both Wilson prior to sending in the submission, and Frameline staff, who screened it prior to the program without any problems, had checked the film, Wilson said.

"I don't know what the reason is for my film not being shown. I checked it before I had even given it to them," she said.

The incident has led some to question if revenge was the real motive behind the mix-up. Earlier this month, organizers of the black film festival complained about Frameline showing films in Oakland and charged that Lumpkin was unresponsive to their concerns. In response, Lumpkin pulled a film that had already been slated for the Oakland festival in August.

"It is all about getting them back. One of the other filmmakers was likening the civil rights struggle to the whole gay marriage struggle and here is Michael excluding the only African Ameri-



Filmmaker Debra Wilson

can filmmaker because of a grudge," charged Oakland resident John-Derek Ward, an out gay black man who came to the Roxie to see Wilson's movie. "It is another example of the racism going on in the Castro."

Ward maintains that when he and several others in attendance approached Lumpkin about why Wilson's film was not being shown, Lumpkin was dismissive of their complaints.

"His attitude was there is nothing we can do. The expression on his face was kind of aloof. It was really, really ugly," said Ward. "He sat back with a smug look on his face."

Wilson said the film that "ended up showing was not my film" and faulted Lumpkin, as the festival's director, for not addressing the audience to explain what had happened. Instead, she said a festival volunteer apologized for the technical problem.

"It would have been a nice touch for him to say something. We are trying to work together and mend hard feelings. It was a perfect opportunity to let that happen and he let that time pass," said Wilson. "He was very unresponsive to the situation. Given the history, I thought it was peculiar. He was sitting off to the corner and did nothing."

Lumpkin, when asked Tuesday about the charges the film was not shown because of the dispute between the two festivals, said, "I would rather respond if they want to say something to me, they can, or if they want to say something to Frameline, they can. I haven't heard that from anyone at this point in time."

He took issue with characterization that he "was in the audience," saying he did not attend the wedding films program. "I showed up at the theater toward the end of the program. I was introducing the next program."

Wilson's film was not the only

one to experience problems in the festival, noted Lumpkin.

"It is always disheartening and troubling to me and Frameline when those things happen during the festival," he said.

After being contacted by the *Bay Area Reporter* about the complaints and charges, Lumpkin contacted Wilson to invite her to show the film during its upcoming summer program.

"We invited the film to screen in our Frameline at the Center program on August 11," Lumpkin told the *B.A.R.* late Tuesday. "I left a message for Debra and am waiting to hear back from her."

Wilson did thank the Frameline volunteer and a board member who tried to contact Lumpkin to have the film shown Sunday during the "Girl Shorts" program at the Castro Theatre.

"She was very nice. She called and e-mailed him but he never got back to her," said Wilson.

The board member, Sayeed Howard, however said she did reach Lumpkin and that all attempts were made to find a way to screen the submitted film in its entirety.

"I had told Debra I did not know if it could be screened but we should at least ask the question and that is exactly what we did. We looked at the timing because her film is 30 minutes and there wasn't enough time during that particular screening," she said.

Howard added that the board, Lumpkin, and Frameline staff tried their best to remedy the situation.

Having her film not shown was especially upsetting, said Wilson, because of the trouble it took to have the film screened in the first place. After winning Frameline's Audience Award for best short for her film *Butch Mysique* in 2003, for which she received \$3,000 from Frameline to complete, Wilson submitted it to Showtime's black filmmaker's showcase. She won best film and received funding to do the marriage film, which looked at the influence of gay marriage on African American couples and the black community.

"I had to get special permission from Showtime to even show this film at Frameline. It is going to be aired on Showtime in February of 2006," said Wilson. "I had to jump through hoops. I had to get clearance and approval. It was a big deal."

She is considering asking Showtime if she can screen the film during the Oakland festival in late August. For information about the black film fest, visit [www.bbit.net](http://www.bbit.net). ▼

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Newsom

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still has to be considered by the complainants," he said. "We are lucky to have a mayor such as Mayor Newsom who is looking for resolution of an issue that is dividing our community. However, people need to pay attention to the thoughts and feelings of the complainants."

Newsom's remarks last week were his first public comments on the matter since a group of former patrons and employees charged last June, and the Human Rights Commission found in April, that Natali engaged in discriminatory hiring and business practices at his bar San Francisco Badlands. Natali has repeatedly denied the charges and has appealed the HRC's findings.

Unlike in the hotel labor contract dispute, where Newsom joined the picket lines last fall, he said he would not take part in the weekly Saturday night protests outside the 18th Street bar.

"What we are doing is appropriate. What I learned from the hotel dispute is I was criticized for not being objective. That is one reason why I am not going to go outside the bar picketing and jumping up and down," said Newsom.

Newsom said he has been working closely with Supervisor Bevan Dufty, whose District 8 includes the Castro, on trying to find a resolution to the matter. Dufty, who also had worked on setting up mediation between the two sides but saw his efforts go nowhere, had the board pass a resolution calling on the city and state to take appropriate regulatory action against Natali. A protégé of Brown's and former staff member, Dufty praised Newsom for his reaching out to his old boss.

"I think Mayor Brown is eminently qualified to do this, both due to his life experience and work as a political leader. The question comes down to: will all the parties work with him? For me, I am hopeful. I am ready to move this forward, I think that is very important," said Dufty.

## No agreement yet

As of Wednesday, neither Natali nor the complainants had agreed to accept Brown's offer to mediate. Nor had they even agreed to begin mediation.

"We are still trying to get the parties to agree to mediate," said HRC compliance officer Larry Brinkin, who oversaw the HRC's 10-month investigation into the matter.

Instead, the two parties have continued to argue over AC4A's insistence that Natali apologize and accept the HRC's report.

"The only thing between us and mediation is Les Natali offering an apology. We even provided language he can use," said AC4A spokesman John Newsome. "With city findings establishing discrimination occurred, it is entirely appropriate Mr. Natali acknowledge some wrongdoing and make some cursory noises."

Turman added that, "No one is trying to put up any obstacles in reaching a mediation. Absolutely, it is normal to put preconditions on mediation. We are going to mediation when Mr. Natali issues his apology. Tell him to get off his ass, make the apologies, and let's get on resolving this case."

But attorney Paul Melbostad, who is also representing Natali, said the group's apology request is "ludicrous" and that his client has agreed to meet with a "professional neutral mediator" without preconditions.

"You don't admit to all the allegations of the other side before you mediate. Just like it would be ludicrous for us to demand And Castro For All to admit all the allegations are false. They are not proceeding in good faith," charged Melbostad.

Strike added that, "It's highly unusual for somebody to try to impose these kinds of conditions to even get to mediation. This is the kind of thing a party would strive to get at the end of the mediation process. I don't know if their intention is to delay mediation or not, but that is the effect it is having."

Natali did submit a statement to the HRC last Wednesday, which his lawyers said included the word apology in it. But they declined to provide the full text to the *Bay Area Reporter*. By last Saturday leaders of the community group had rejected Natali's statement, instead writing their own statement of apology they want him to sign.

That statement included Natali accepting responsibility "for the racially discriminatory practices at the SF Badlands bar" and an apology "to those individuals who suffered as a result of this conduct, for which there was no justification."

Strike said his client's original statement "is considerably different" from the one proposed by AC4A. He refused to provide further details, stating, "I really don't want to talk specifically about what was in Mr. Natali's statement and their statement. The parties have not agreed to the wording of a final statement yet."

According to a copy of the original statement obtained by the *B.A.R.*, Natali "apologizes to those individuals directly" who made allegations they were "victims of discriminatory acts" and he "acknowledges" that the complainants "truly believe they were victimized." Natali also apologizes "to anyone whom he mistakenly believed to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol that was not so impaired" and he also apologizes for "anyone who feels he or she was treated unequally at the bar because of his or her race."

Stating that he finds the conduct he is accused of "reprehensible" and at times "is understandably emotional," he "regrets and retracts" statements he or his lawyers have made "that were hurtful to the people involved."

However, AC4A and Turman said Natali's statement falls far short of what is needed.

"It doesn't acknowledge wrong-

doing. It doesn't even make noises about wrongdoing," said Newsome. "As I read it, he apologizes to the people who *feel* they were discriminated against and in fact the city found they were discriminated against. There is a chasm of difference between someone feeling someone violated their civil rights and having substantiated evidence from the city and county of San Francisco someone violated your civil rights."

AC4A points to a July 16, 2004 letter Natali sent to Calvin Gipson, who first approached the bar owner in January 2004 about racism allegations, as the kind of apology it seeks. In the letter Natali admits he has made mistakes and states that it "was never my intent to discriminate." He also says that at times he could have shown the "proper sensitivity" for other's feelings, which he "sincerely" regrets, and that he is "truly sorry."

"It is a very different tone," said Newsome.

But Strike countered the letter is similar to Natali's current stance and apology statement.

"He doesn't acknowledge any acts of discrimination - then or now. The letter to Mr. Gipson is consistent with Mr. Natali's ongoing and often-stated desire to apologize to anyone who felt they were discriminated against and to resolve this problem," said Strike.

Awaiting reports from both the city's Entertainment Commission, which could revoke Natali's entertainment permits, and the state's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, which could revoke Natali's liquor licenses, AC4A organizers said they will continue their weekly pickets until those agencies take action in the case.

"This matter, as of yet, is unresolved," said Newsome. ▼

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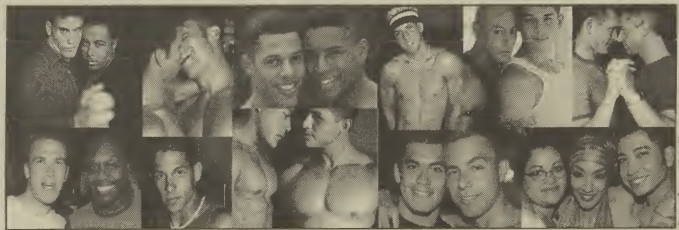
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## Barnestorming

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Swanson, former chief of staff to Congresswoman **Barbara Lee** (D-Oakland). **Clinton Killian**, a former president of the AC Transit Board of Directors, is also in the race and promises to strongly push same-sex marriage. Russo is white; both Swanson and Killian are African American.

Former District 9 supervisor candidate and all around good guy **Miguel Bustos** landed a gig work-

ing for Congresswoman Barbara Lee. In this return to federal politics, Bustos should excel at helping forge alliances between African Americans, Latinos, and LGBTs in pursuing progressive goals. Best of luck!

See you next week. Here's hoping we'll be closer to marriage equality. ▼

**Bill Barnes** is an elected member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee. His e-mail is [billbarnessf@hotmail.com](mailto:billbarnessf@hotmail.com).



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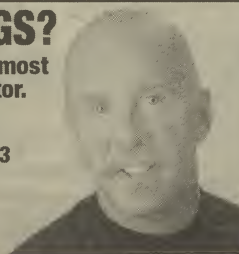
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## CARE Act

◀ page 1

seven. As a member of the House of Representatives he played a leading role in reauthorization of the CARE Act in 2000 and he subsequently served as co-chair of the Presidential Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS.

"The CARE Act continues to distribute federal funds based not upon the number of people with HIV but rather AIDS, only a fraction of the total population of those living with HIV," Coburn said. "Studies have shown that those with HIV but not AIDS are much more likely to be women, African American, Hispanic, and those who live in rural areas."

He wants resources "directed to where the disease is headed rather than to where it was a decade ago." Previous funding formulas were based upon cumulative AIDS caseloads, including those who have been dead for more than a decade, rather than the current HIV caseload. But that will change beginning with the fiscal year 2007 budget.

He criticized the "hold harmless" provision of the last reauthorization, which limits reductions in funding. Last year San Francisco received 92 percent of all such funding, some \$7.3 million. "As a result, San Francisco receives twice the amount per AIDS case as every other" metropolitan area, Coburn said.

"The city finds itself in the unique position where it must find ways to spend excess money on non-essential services while its reported AIDS cases continue to drop," Coburn charged. "In sharp contrast, the largest AIDS service provider in the country, in Washington, D.C., is faced with dire financial problems that have forced the closing of several offices, massive staff layoffs despite a growing population affected by HIV/AIDS."

"This incredible cost [of drugs] to provide essential treatment underscores the need to prioritize core medical services and effective prevention," Coburn said.

## GAO report

The Government Accountability Office released a 45-page analysis of factors impacting Titles I and II of Ryan White at the hearing. Title I supports eligible metropolitan areas (EMAs), the cities first and hardest hit by the epidemic, while Title II covers the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP).

"States with EMAs receive more funding per AIDS case than jurisdictions without EMAs because cases within EMAs are counted twice," the report stated. It compared Connecticut (5,363 cases) and two EMAs with South Carolina (5,563 cases) and no EMA. It found that Connecticut received \$6 million more in funding in fiscal year 2004. That was 29 percent or \$1,275 more per AIDS case.

The Title I hold harmless provision went almost entirely to San Francisco (91.6 percent). The second ranking beneficiary was Kansas City, which received only 1.7 percent of that funding.

"San Francisco received \$1,020 more in base grant funding per AIDS case than did EMAs that did not receive hold harmless funding. [Because of this] San Francisco, which had 7,216 AIDS cases in fiscal year 2004, received a base grant equivalent to what an EMA with approximately 13,245 AIDS cases (84 percent more) would have received base

on the proportion of cases," according to the report.

Fred Dillon, policy and communications director for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, told the *Bay Area Reporter* Tuesday, June 28 that more federal dollars are needed for the CARE Act. "The disparity in federal HIV/AIDS allocations is a result of insufficient appropriations," he said. "No one, including San Francisco, gets enough money through the CARE Act."

And Dillon defended the hold harmless provision for San Francisco, saying it was a result of the previous CARE Act changes.

"If Title I [funds] had been going up over the past years, we wouldn't need the hold harmless. If the amount had gone up, money would be going to other cities," Dillon said. He explained that San Francisco agreed to changes in Title I funding on the condition that the city's system of care that has been in place for years was not "decimated."

Even with the hold harmless agreement, San Francisco stands to see a 21 percent decrease in CARE funds over the next five years, Dillon said.

"Anything more than that would cause pandemonium and result in decreased life expectancy," Dillon said.

SEAF is actively involved in the CARE Act reauthorization process, Dillon said.

"The sad reality is people are trying to move around peas on a plate. We wish [Senator] Coburn would focus on increased resources around the country," he added.

The GAO report found that the shift from a formula based on AIDS cases to one based on HIV cases, which will occur with fiscal year 2007, would shift funds to locations that have a more established or mature names-based reporting system. That is most often in the South, where the epidemic appears to be spreading most rapidly.

The South includes Florida and Texas, states with the third and fourth largest caseloads respectively, as well as the District of Columbia, which has the highest prevalence of HIV of any jurisdiction in the nation.

The GAO estimated that approximately half the states will lose and half will gain with the shift in formulas. The changes could be as great as 14 percent or as little as 4 percent depending on whether and how hold harmless provisions are included in a reauthorized bill.

In the most extreme scenario for ADAP funding, the big losers would be California (\$11.8 million), Georgia (\$3.5 million), Illinois (\$3.2 million), Maryland (\$3.0 million), and Puerto Rico (\$3.0 million). Those states gaining the most would be North Carolina (\$4.9 million), Virginia (\$3 million), Florida (\$2.9 million), New Jersey (\$2.5 million), and Alabama (\$2.5 million).

## Witnesses

Several people testified at last week's congressional hearing about how HIV cases are reported.

Robert Janssen, director of HIV prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said, "Having all states collect HIV information in the same manner will ensure that the nation has reliable and valid data to monitor and describe the scope of the epidemic; to assure equitable distribution of resources to those who have greatest need; and to plan for and evaluate prevention, care, and treatment programs."

Most states now report HIV cases by name, some for nearly 20 years, but a number of states are still trying to implement reporting systems using unique identifiers. Among the latter are California, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, and the District of Columbia.

Janssen said the CDC has had "mixed results" in trying to evaluate code-based systems of reporting. One of the major issues is "de-duplication across jurisdictions;" preventing the same case from being counted in two different states. "In this area, Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia, 20 percent of cases are reported for more than one jurisdiction, so there is a lot of overlap. Nationwide it is 4 percent for AIDS and 9 percent for HIV."

"There is also a problem within states with codes... CD4 counts and viral load are reported, so someone in care might be reported to the health department seven, eight, 10 times a year. Over years they could be reported 40 to 50 times. If they go to different providers and the code is changed in just one way, they would be counted multiple times," Janssen said.

Michael Montgomery heads up the California Office of AIDS and testified on behalf of NAS-TAD, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors. He believes the California code-based system "is very accurate, but very expensive and has caused backlogs within the health department. We are concerned about our ability to carry out a code-based system."

Coburn noted that California is going to spend \$500,000 to formally evaluate the system. He strongly urged the state to move to a names-based system to not only come into compliance with federal law but also to "save a lot of money and treat a lot of folks."

Montgomery said the GAO needs to look at all Ryan White titles and "how that affects the per AIDS case formula." He conceded that California is above average in terms of the Title I and II funding that it receives, but if the other titles are added, "California is below average in terms of expenditures per case." That is because federal funders are directing Title III money to non-EMA areas to correct the imbalance.

He warned, "Equity among the states cannot be achieved simply by rearranging the \$334 million in Title II, and the problems of geographic disparities cannot be solved on the back of Title II alone. Looking at Titles I and II alone distorts the equation," other portions of the CARE Act need to be taken into account as well.

Senator Thomas Carper (D-Delaware) cautioned against relying solely upon the GAO report. "We need to look at the whole picture. In every single state, the burden placed on Ryan White depends on what percentage of the HIV/AIDS population is enrolled in Medicaid, and how generous that state's Medicaid program is," and also upon enrollment in Medicare and the extent of private health insurance coverage. So, the needs for funding and services will vary.

Medicare and Medicaid provided even more medical care for people living with HIV than the CARE Act. ▼

The GAO report is available as a pdf file at [www.gao.gov/new.items/d05841t.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05841t.pdf).

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## OBITUARIES

John Cailleau  
1938 — 2005

Services will be held July 7, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Columbarium for John Kirby Cailleau, who passed away June 20, 2005 at the age of 66. A celebration of his life will follow at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center.

Born in Oakland in 1938, John was a lifetime community activist in San Francisco on gay issues and (following a stroke in 1988) on disability access issues. Beginning in 1989, he worked with the Senior and Disabled Advisory Committee to MUNI to ensure greater public access to the transit system, particularly for those with physical limitations or environmental sensitivities.

During the 1980's, John founded and ran Event Design and Production, and prior to that, he operated a T-shirt printing business serving the then-emerging gay community in the Castro district. His creativity, public relations talents, and sense of purpose helped shape many now-successful business ventures in San Francisco.

In death, John joins his parents, Armand and Lenora Cailleau. He is survived by his sister, Denise Norris, and nieces Danielle Arigoni, Nicole Walsh, and Renee Arigoni.

## Robert W. Davolt

June 27, 1958 — May 16, 2005



A celebration of the life of Robert Wayne Davolt will be held on Saturday, July 9 at Daddy's Bar, 440 Castro St., from 3 to 6 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please remember the Leather

Archives and Museum (LA&M) in Chicago. Robert was on the Museum's Board of Directors. As San Francisco Leather Daddy XIX he was an active fundraiser. Until his illness he was Editor of *Bound & Gagged Magazine*. His regular online column at the Leatherpage.com had a readership among the international gay leather community of nearly 125,000.

In 2004, critics praised his first book, *Playfully Obvious: An Irreverent & Unauthorized Manual for Leather/SM*, nominated for an American Library Association Stonewall Book Award. Robert was editor of *Drummer Magazine* and executive producer of the International Drummer Contest in San Francisco.

During his 30 years of freelance writing his work appeared in such diverse outlets as the *San Francisco Examiner*, *SF Frontiers*, *Bay Area Reporter*, the *Leather Journal*, *Blueboy*, *Numbers*, and the Official Programs of the Folsom and Castro Street Fairs.

Robert Davolt is survived by his loving partner of seven years, Joe Granese of San Francisco.

Also surviving in Seattle are his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Davolt, two brothers, David and Steven, and sister Deborah. On June 13, a service was held at the family church in Seattle.

## Brian Michael McGuire

December 5, 1963 — June 26, 2005



Sunday morning, June 26, Brian passed away peacefully in the arms of Paul Sousa, his husband of eleven years, and his mother, Ruth Ann Seth. During the last days of his life, Brian was supported

ed by the same amazing love and energy that he always gave to others.

Brian began his journey in St. Louis, Missouri as the first child of Ruth Ann and Michael McGuire. Soon after, they moved to St. Charles where Brian be-

came the big brother to Christine and Allyson. After the passing of his father, Brian's stepfather Richard Seth married Ruth Ann and they moved to Knoxville, Iowa.

Brian continued his education at the University of Missouri, Columbia and Iowa State, before making his way out West. There he began work as the "Matre Diva" at Stars restaurant. He then went through the nursing program at City College in San Francisco. It was at this time that he met and married Paul.

After graduating with honors, Brian began work as an RN at Kaiser Permanente, South San Francisco. His interests led him to the operating room where he proudly earned his position as Staff Nurse III and was a member of the Professional Practice and Facility Selection Committees. He was also an active member of CNA and an activist for improvement of nurse staffing ratios.

All of his family, countless friends, and co-workers will keep Brian's wit, laughter, directness, and love of orchids alive.

A celebration of his life will be held at their home on Saturday, July 2, from noon — 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the SF AIDS Foundation, National Transplant Society, National Public Radio, KQED, or KFSF.

## Anthony A. Molina

November 2, 1949 — June 17, 2005

Tony died Friday, June 17, at Maitri hospice in San Francisco, where he had been living for three months.

Over 19 years in San Francisco Tony's reach was very wide. He volunteered time and effort over many years to help people with AIDS and in support of transvestite/transgender/transsexual people, notably with Shanti, The Names Project, Proyecto Contra SIDA Por Vida, and as a board member of National LLEGO.

"Bitch" Tony Molina was bold in approaching politicians, public officials, nonprofit executives and drug companies, and was quite pleased to be known

as a pain in the ass. He had a keen sense for self-important jerks, even if they were associated with AIDS organizations.

Tony was born in Chicago and raised in Cuba. He came to the United States in the 1980 Mariel boatlift and went to New York, then moved to San Francisco in 1986. He is survived by his partner of 18 years, Ben Haller, by his beloved basset hound Leah, and by the many friends who admired him. At Tony's request, no service was held, but a gathering of friends and acquaintances may take place in the near future; please call (415) 440-3019 after the 4th of July for information. Anyone so desiring may make a contribution in Tony's name to Maitri or a local AIDS organization of one's choice.

## Steven Jason Poole

February 17, 1959 — May 12, 2005



Steven Jason Poole passed away suddenly while vacationing in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on May 12, 2005.

Steve was born in Concord, California. Eventually the family moved to Benicia, California, where he graduated high school with the class of 1977.

In 1983 Steve moved to the island of Kauai, Hawaii, where he was a graphic artist for Crazy Shirts. After the hurricane that devastated Kauai in 1992, he returned to the mainland and resided in San Francisco.

Steve was a loving son, brother and friend. He enjoyed traveling and sharing

the gift of travel with others. He found spirituality in nature all around him. His love of adventure led him to join United Air Lines as a flight attendant, which enabled him to experience many cultures that he shared with his family and friends.

Steven was preceded in death by his older brother, Mark, two years ago. He is survived by his father and mother, Ernie and Norma Poole, of La Pine, Oregon; his sister and brother-in-law, Patty and Ken Zappa and his niece, Amy, all of La Pine; a brother, Tom, of Clearlake, California; a nephew, Jason Felt of Concord, California; a niece, Rena Stumpf of Pennsylvania; and a brother-in-law, Bruce Taves, of Richmond, California.

## OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

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## Pot club suspended due to neighbor complaints

by Liz Highleyman

While neighbors described the three medical cannabis clubs raided by the Drug Enforcement Administration last week as calm and quiet, such has not been the case with the Green Cross, a dispensary located at 3412 22nd near Guerrero.

The controversy came to a head in May, as local residents and businesses complained of loud music, pervasive odor of marijuana smoke, and people — usually young men, sometimes in groups — loitering on the sidewalks and in cars outside the club. They said Green Cross patrons often double-parked and blocked driveways, and verbally abused neighbors when asked to move. Worse, residents also described open marijuana use outside the club, as well as what appeared to be cannabis distribution or resale.

Craig Morton, who operated the Shear Delight hair salon next door to the Green Cross for more than 10 years, said the noise and odor drove him to sell his business this past winter. "It reached the point where I felt I was run out," he said. "I did vote for Proposition

215 because I am a person with HIV and I thought I might need it someday. But I had a very negative experience with the whole thing. There were no regulations in place to protect me."

The neighbors' woes are not unique. A dramatic increase in the number of cannabis clubs in early 2005, coupled with mounting quality-of-life complaints and concerns about non-medical cannabis distribution, led Mayor Gavin Newsom and the Board of Supervisors to call for stricter regulation this spring. On March 29, the supervisors unanimously imposed a 45-day emergency moratorium prohibiting the opening of new dispensaries, since extended to the fall.

According to Dan Sider of the Planning Department, San Francisco currently regulates cannabis dispensaries as "social services." There is no specific permit for cannabis dispensaries but — like any other business — they must obtain a business license and a change-of-use permit. Sider said Green Cross is one of only four cannabis dispensaries in the city that went through the process, but some neighbors within 150 feet of the club say they did not receive

the required notice, and no hearings were held.

"We support medical marijuana completely for people who are sick, but where is the oversight?" asked resident Veronica Gaynor. "Our concern is not about patients who legally use the facility, but customers who are seemingly taking advantage of the city's inability to responsibly police and regulate such businesses."

Green Cross President Kevin Reed — who uses medical cannabis for chronic back pain — said he has done everything he can to address the neighbors' concerns, including installing commercial door closures and seals, upgrading the ventilation system, prohibiting marijuana smoking on the premises, and instituting a "zero tolerance" policy regarding illegal parking. Green Cross also installed 16 surveillance cameras to monitor the adjacent street and alley and hired a security guard who is on duty while the club is open. The building upgrades and security equipment cost about \$50,000. Reed told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Following two community meetings on May 23 and June 6 —

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## Pot club raids

◀ page 2

Fry and Schafer were charged with growing and distributing marijuana from their California Medical Research Center in Cool (a town northeast of Sacramento) from August 1999 until September 2001, when the center and

their home were raided by the DEA. Fry allegedly also wrote a medical cannabis recommendation for an undercover DEA agent without seeing his medical records.

Said U.S. Attorney McGregor Scott, "It cannot be any more clear. The sale and distribution of marijuana are violations of federal law. There are no exceptions."

But the couple's attorney, Laurence Lichter, claims that until the Supreme Court's recent *Raich* verdict, Fry and Schafer were operating in accordance with state law. "Marijuana was legal in this part of the United States until this month," he said, "so any attempt to hold them as serious criminals would have been, I think, inappropriate." ▼



# Post-Pride

by Jim Provenzano

Last week's LGBT Pride events made for a wonderful array of sports-related activities. With our own Mayor Gavin Newsom riding a bicycle in the parade, and a series of films exploring sports themes at the Frameline Festival, it was definitely a year for GLBT jocks and their fans.

The San Francisco Fog Rugby Football Club was part of the Frameline 29th annual film festival. At the screening of *Rugger Buggers*, Alice Hoglan, the mother of the late Mark Bingham, was among the honored guests. Audience members got a chance to see the Bingham Cup, which the Fog has won in both of the previous tournaments. The Fog also hosted a scrimmage and party at Treasure Island for novice and seasoned rugby players.

At the "Sporting Life" exhibit at the GLBT Historical Society, I was honored multiple times by some prominent folks in our community throughout the week, including the presence on June 22 of British powerlifter Chris Morgan, who had just flown in from England, where he won yet another title.

Morgan represented England for the second time in the European Drug-Free Powerlifting Championship final, which was

held in Scotland June 18-20. He lifted a total of 580 kilos, with 220 in squat, 110 in bench press, and 250 in deadlift.

An ambassador for the Federation of Gay Games and the Gay Games in Chicago in 2006, Morgan is also the Gay Games record holder in squat, deadlift, and total poundage. All this, and he's surprisingly modest and soft-spoken in person.

At the International FrontRunners reception held June 23, luminaries in the running world ranged from Lavender U. Joggers and SF FrontRunners co-founder Bud Budlong to SF FrontRunners' current president, Garrett Hayashida. International FrontRunners had its annual meeting here in San Francisco.

Saturday saw hundreds of runners participate in the annual Pride Run at Golden Gate Park. This year's celebrity starter was the San Francisco 49ers' new coach, Mike Nolan. It was great to show visitors to the Sporting Life exhibit a rare video of a 1985 "Gay Run" in the same location.

On Friday, I got to meet Pride grand marshal Esera Tuaolo and his partner Mitchell Wherley. Not only did SF Pride President Joey Cain and media director Jonathan Fishleder bring Tuaolo and Wherley to the historical society, but a few TV news crews, who taped interviews with Tuaolo there (you can read my interview with him



A few exuberant members of Cheer SF in a rare moment of repose.

soon).

You can visit the Sporting Life exhibit to see the latest edition; a football signed by Tuaolo, right next to another ball signed by David Kopay, whose book Tuaolo credits as helping him decide to come out.

But I'd have to say that Saturday evening was possibly the most amazing exhibit event yet, when Cheer SF hosted five other cheer squads as part of its 25th anniversary celebration. Veteran member Steve Burke, whose varsity jacket is part of the exhibit, brought scrapbooks filled with photos and news clippings going back to the group's early roots as the Bay Area Raw Rahs.

Not only that, the entire place

was packed with cheerleaders, making it the exhibit's largest event of the year. State Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) dropped by to offer a slightly larger proclamation than that of Mayor Newsom's. Leno honored the squad by proclaiming June 25 Cheer SF Day.

On Pride Sunday, I got a tad sunburned, despite the mostly foggy weather, but it was worth it to create a little 4H makeshift mini version of the exhibit at a booth loaned by, and adjoining, Cheer SF's booth. Thanks to Eliot Kahn for setting that up. Hundreds of people got to see a small taste of our community's collective athletic history. Several mentioned their own participation in regional and local sports groups, including a Sacramento man who'd medaled at the first Gay Games.

But possibly the best moment was the hoot of pleasure I heard when one man recognized his own sister. For months I'd been

asking people if they knew the whereabouts of Faith Sloan, a former Oakland resident and Gay Games IV medalist in women's physique. A large photo of her is prominently displayed in the exhibit's physique photo panel.

In a bit of happenstance, earlier last week, a blow up posterized version of a similar beautiful color Rick Gerharter photo showing Sloan posing with a beaming smile had arrived at the GLBT Historical Society, sent by a local photo lab as a sample. I decided to bring it as part of the display, still not sure if I'd be able to hang it properly with my rudimentary duct tape and monofilament (a.k.a. fishing wire).

I'm glad I did. Sloan's brother, Carlton Sloan, happened by, and was thrilled to see it. He promised to let Sloan know that she's being honored. That made my day.

McAllister Street became Jack Row at the second annual "Sports Block." Sports groups that hosted booths included: SAGA North Ski and Snowboard Club, Triangle Martial Arts Association, SF Gay Softball League, Northern California Rainbow Divers, Golden Gate Wrestling, Different Spokes Cycling Club, SF Fog Rugby Football Club, SF Bay Blades Rowing, East Bay Front Runners, SF FrontRunners, SF Earthquakes Ice Hockey, and the Gay & Lesbian Tennis Federation.

Others worked beverage booths to raise funds, and Team San Francisco worked with representatives from Chicago 2006 Gay Games VII to hand out information and get people signed up for next summer's big multi-sport event.

Thanks to Ross Hayduk and Team SF for organizing the continued outreach on such a busy

next page ►

Worn leather boots tell the story of Civil War surgeon Dr. Mary Walker who crossed enemy lines wearing full male dress, and later toured the U.S. and abroad on behalf of women's rights.

The quest for equality is but one of the many tales through our life.



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Alice Hoglan, center, at the showing of *Rugger Buggers*, a film about the Bingham Cup.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SAGA summer fun

SAGA North Ski and Snowboard Club is the San Francisco Bay Area gay and lesbian ski and snowboard club, but it also has events through the summer, including a July 4 potluck dinner and fireworks in the Marina at 6 p.m. A fun event for all and a good way to meet other members. To RSVP and get the address, e-mail BBQJuly4th2005@saganorth.com

On July 16-17, a whitewater rafting trip is planned, and on July 22-24, a houseboat and waterskiing party on the Delta takes place - another favorite summer trip. For more information, visit [www.saganorth.com](http://www.saganorth.com).

### Team SF party

Are you in training for Chicago 2006? There are less than 400 days to the Chicago 2006 Gay Games VII Opening Ceremonies on Saturday, July 15, 2006. Join Team San Francisco for a "365 Party" at the Metro, Thursday, July 14, at 7 p.m. In addition to a raffle for two round-trip tickets on JetBlue Airways and other great prizes, they will be showing off the new uniform design for the Gay Games VII. For more information, e-mail [info@teamsf.org](mailto:info@teamsf.org) or visit [www.teamsf.org](http://www.teamsf.org).

Send your events a week in advance to: [jimproven@yahoo.com](mailto:jimproven@yahoo.com).



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Guest Opinion

◀ page 6

ation and HIV prevention are at odds, and it may be time to rethink the gay manifesto. Gay liberation is about throwing off the shackles of limitations on sexual behavior, and HIV prevention is of necessity about limitations. The high rates of crystal meth use within the gay community require some introspection. Why hasn't the leadership of the gay community come out more strongly about the perils and pitfalls of such substance abuse and made it a priority to prevent and treat this problem?

## Pot club

◀ page 17

the day the Supreme Court handed down its *Gonzales v Raich* decision - District 8 Supervisor Bevan Duffy asked the Planning Department to suspend the Green Cross permit; a suspension order was issued by the Department of Building Inspection on June 10.

"As much as I believe the Green Cross made efforts to improve their relationship with the neighborhood, fundamentally they are creating huge impacts that can't be mitigated," Duffy said. "I don't think any business with that type of intense activity could exist in that location."

Green Cross appealed the suspension on June 22. "We take the position that Reed has due process rights, and that the revocation is not enforceable until the appeal is heard," Reed's attorney, Acrolina Panto, told the B.A.R.

The Planning Department, DBI, Duffy's office, and the city attorney's office are now trying to determine how to proceed. The Planning Department and DBI will hold a hearing on July 15, during which "the city will be listening to arguments pro and con," according to zoning administrator Larry Badiner. The city's Board of

HIV prevention is about much more than slogans and slick ads. HIV has a way of pointing its finger at everything that we as a society do wrong. If we were serious about HIV prevention, we would look seriously at all of the dimensions of HIV and systematically go about changing them for the better. ▼

**Thomas J. Coates, Ph.D., is professor of medicine within the division of infectious diseases at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine. He is also a member of the executive committee of the UCLA AIDS Institute.**

Permit Appeals will hold a separate hearing to consider Reed's appeal on August 19.

When the board met in late March to consider the dispensary moratorium, District 9 Supervisor Tom Ammann emphasized, "This is not an occasion to revisit the issue of whether there should be medical marijuana. We don't want people to think they're going to be able to practice 'NIMBYism' around this issue."

But some wonder if that's what's happening around Green Cross. Like the dispensary, restaurants such as the now-closed Flying Saucer at 22nd and Guerrero also generate significant pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Patrons routinely crowd the streets outside bars smoking cigarettes until the early morning hours. And drivers are permitted to double-park in entire traffic lanes while attending churches in the neighborhood.

"All this talk of shutting [Green Cross] down is an extreme overreaction, and smacks of politicians pandering to a vocal minority," said local resident Jason Cohen, who uses medical cannabis to manage nerve and cartilage deterioration. "They are providing a valuable service in a professional manner, and it would be to the detriment of a lot of us if they were to close." ▼

## Sports Complex

◀ previous page

day.

For updated links and contact info on all local GLBT-inclusive sports groups, visit [www.teamsf.org](http://www.teamsf.org).

## Smoke off the water

Bay Area sports folk may know Naphtali Offen for his years of organizing the Angel Island Sports Days. He's also spent years focusing on anti-tobacco activism, and was recognized for his work on June 22 by UCSF, where his studies have led to greater understanding of smoking problems, specifically in the LGBT community.

Offen was honored with the UCSF Chancellor's Award for GLBT Leadership, for helping to co-found Bay Area Gay Liberation in 1975, the Harvey Milk Democratic Club in 1976, and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation in 1987.

In his speech at the ceremony last week, UCSF Chancellor Dr. J. Michael Bishop said that Offen has also "led the successful effort to extend UCSF's smoke-free regulations to all campus facilities, including outdoors. Naphtali's involvement with these issues began in 1991, when he co-founded CLASH, the Coalition of Lavender Americans on Smoking and Health. Serving as its president for five years, Offen helped inspire the first discussions about smoking in GLBT communities. CLASH has

now become California's leading resource for smoking cessation support, provider training, and multifaceted education around GLBT tobacco use."

In his remarks, Offen spoke about his years of fighting for a healthy GLBT community. "Tobacco control is also a social justice movement that tells the truth," he said. "We name the elephant in the room: the tobacco industry is killing us and the government is allowing it."

"Queers smoke 27-66 percent more than the mainstream; in fact, in the U.S., tobacco kills more gay men than AIDS. But because it does so over a period of decades, or because it's not transmitted sexually, or because it doesn't have the immediacy of an addiction to meth, or because it remains normalized in the culture, it gets overlooked. Sad to say, we found that LGBTs, including many health care advocates, don't care much about the issue."

"What is a queer issue? Must it be gay-specific like homophobia or same-sex marriage? Or can it be anything that concerns the community? Some mainstream issues like alcohol, drugs, and suicide have come to be seen as gay concerns. Why not tobacco?"

Congratulations to Offen, and to all who work to fight the addictions in our community. ▼

For more columns, visit [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org).

## LEGAL NOTICES

## STATEMENT FILE A-0285941-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Swagaville Entertainment, 915 Golden Gate Ave. Apt. K San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed James E. Metts. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/06/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/06/05. **JUNE 9, 16, 23, 30 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0285796-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Chen's Fortune Cookie, 937 Howard St. San Francisco, Ca. 94013. This business is conducted by an individual, signed De Huang Chen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/01/05. **JUNE 9, 16, 23, 30 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0285523-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Space Gallery, 1141 Polk St. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Ray Morone. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/20/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/20/05. **JUNE 9, 16, 23, 30 2005**

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CMC 05542122

In the matter of the application of Karen S. Becker for change of name. The application of Karen S. Becker for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Karen S. Becker has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Zoe Becker. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 4th day of August, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **JUNE 9, 16, 23, 30 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0286089-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Loads Of Fun Landscaping And Cafe, 1411 Kansas St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Steven R. Lawson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/13/05. **JUNE 16, 23, 30 JULY 7 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0286042-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1.)EQS, 2.)Environmental Quality Solutions, 760 Market St., Ste. 947 San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Mark Malachowski. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/27/94. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/10/05. **JUNE 16, 23, 30 JULY 7 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0285958-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Raphael, 1483 47th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Raphael Brandsma. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/07/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/07/05. **JUNE 16, 23, 30 JULY 7 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0286098-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Purple Iris Healing Center, 1404 Church St. San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Jill Ann Swearingen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7/17/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/13/05. **JUNE 16, 23, 30 JULY 7 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0285521-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: SharpViews.com, 530 Brannan St. #403 San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Kenneth O. Jensen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/20/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/20/05. **JUNE 16, 23, 30 JULY 7 2005**

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CMC 05542133

In the matter of the application of Pooka Keoni Littlemore for change of name. The application of Pooka Keoni Littlemore for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Pooka Keoni Littlemore has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Keoni Chavez. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 4th day of August, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **JUNE 16, 23, 30 JULY 7 2005**

## CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

The Department of Children, Youth and Their Families is seeking a consultant to provide: 1) intensive one-to-one fiscal technical assistance to the department's nonprofit agencies; 2) workshops to nonprofit staff; 3) and analysis of the department's internal fiscal processes.

The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is available for pick up between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, 1390 Market Street, Suite 900, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. Copies may be downloaded from the department's website at [www.dcyf.org](http://www.dcyf.org).

Proposals are due on Friday, July 8, 2005.

Contact Arina Lim at (415) 554-8956 for information.

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - SIXTH STREET IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Redevelopment Agency ("Agency") is requesting proposals for sidewalk cleaning services, litter removal, tree maintenance and graffiti abatement for the sidewalks on Sixth Street and adjacent streets south of Natoma Street through Clementina Street. The Agency is also requesting steam cleaning services on Sixth Street and adjacent streets from Market Street to Clementina Street. Particular emphasis will be placed on the applicant or applicants' demonstrated successful experience on relevant and comparable projects. This opportunity is open to all businesses, both for-profit and non-profit. Responses to the Request for Proposals (RFP) will be accepted until Monday, July 11, 2005, 4:00 p.m. To obtain a copy of the RFP packet or if you have questions, contact Cathy Pickering, Assistant Project Manager, at (415) 749-2509, or [cathy.pickering@sfgov.org](mailto:cathy.pickering@sfgov.org).

## SFGTV: SAN FRANCISCO GOVERNMENT TELEVISION

During the months of April through June, tune in to SFGTV, San Francisco Government Television, Cable 26, for exciting programming.

## Commission Coverage

The Police Commission and Planning Commission return to SFGTV. SFGTV broadcasts the Police Commission LIVE every third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. This meeting will replay on the following Thursday at 9:00 p.m. SFGTV replays the Planning Commission Fridays at 8:00 p.m. Check the website at [www.sfgov.org/sfgtv](http://www.sfgov.org/sfgtv) for additional weekend playback times.

## Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee Budget Hearings

During the months of April through June, SFGTV will cover the Board of Supervisors' Budget and Finance Committee's Departmental Budget Hearings. Beginning in April, the Budget and Finance Committee will hold hearings on preliminary budgets, followed by Budget hearings for Enterprise departments, culminating in the end of June with General Fund Department Budget hearings.

Tune into SFGTV Thursdays at 1:00 PM for LIVE broadcasts of the Budget and Finance Committee hearings. These meetings will replay on the same day at 6:00 PM. Check the SFGTV website at [www.sfgov.org/sfgtv](http://www.sfgov.org/sfgtv) for the additional playback times of these meetings.

## Department of Building Inspection Brown Bag Lunches

The Building Inspection Department welcomes you to attend a series of informal, general information talks about topics ranging from the Building Permit Process to legalizing In-Law units. These talks are presented at no charge to the public and city staff on the 3rd Thursday of the month, Noon to 1:30 PM at the Department of Building Inspection. SFGTV will broadcast the Brown Bag Talks on Cable Channel 26. Check the SFGTV website at [www.sfgov.org/sfgtv](http://www.sfgov.org/sfgtv) for playback times of these programs.

Please send comments to [sfgtv@sfgov.org](mailto:sfgtv@sfgov.org)

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Please complete a meeting information/public noticing survey online at <http://http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsuprs> or call (415) 554-5184 for a survey form.

PUBLIC NOTICE  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

San Francisco Community College District is accepting proposals for campaign management services for a bond measure. To receive a proposal packet please contact Dr. Natalie Berg, 785 Market Street - 14th Floor, San Francisco, Calif. 94103, (Phone: 415.836.5980.) Bids are due no later than Friday, July 15, 2005

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CMC 05542096

In the matter of the application of Sylvia Tam for change of name. The application of Sylvia Tam for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sylvia Tam has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sylvia W. L. Tam-Lee. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 21st day of July, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **JUNE 16, 23, 30 JULY 7 2005**

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #252214

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Matano Design, 1800 Washington St. #714 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business was conducted by an individual signed Mindy Ju. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/12/01. **JUNE 16, 23, 30 JULY 7 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0286193-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Inner Richmond Promotions, 408 Balboa St. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gene L. Rodgers. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/16/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/16/05. **JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0286143-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Matano Design, 1800 Washington St. #714 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Tsutomu Matano. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/15/05. **JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005**

## STATEMENT FILE A-0286174-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Presidio School of Management, Building 36, Ste 120, The Presidio, San Francisco, Ca. 94129. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Nathan Joblin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/15/05. **JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005**

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #0248789

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Gnostic Friends Network located at 493 Haight St. #31 San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business was conducted by an individual signed Alexander H. Guldbek. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/11/01. **JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005**

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CMC 05542050

In the matter of the application of Jenni Eun-Mi Chang for change of name. The application of Jenni Eun-Mi Chang for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jenni Eun-Mi Chang has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jenni Eun-Mi Zaidi. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 28th day of July, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005**

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CMC 05542048

In the matter of the application of Syed Hassan for change of name. The application of Syed Hassan for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Syed Hassan has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Syed Hassan Zaidi. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 28th day of July, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005**

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CMC 05541940

In the matter of the application of Kian-Chai Gok aka KC Gok for change of name. The application of Kian-Chai Gok aka KC Gok for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Kian-Chai Gok aka KC Gok has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Casey Gok. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 11th day of August, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005**



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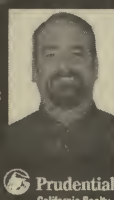
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## LEGAL NOTICES

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN- CISCO FILE # CNC 05542125

In the matter of the application of Heather Ra-  
bine for change of name. The application of  
Heather Rabin for change of name having been  
filed in Court, and it appearing from said appli-  
cation that Heather Rabin has filed an appli-  
cation proposing that his/her name be changed to  
H. Zoe Rabin. Now therefore, it is hereby or-  
dered, that all persons interested in said matter  
do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the  
4th day of August, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day  
to show cause why the application for change of  
name should not be granted.

JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005

### STATEMENT FILE A-0286393-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Catiium, 345 12th Ave. San Francisco,  
Ca. 94118-2108. This business is con-  
ducted by a general partnership, signed Daniel  
M. Catalaa. The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed fic-  
titious business name or names on N/A. The  
statement was filed with the City and County  
of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/23/05.

JUNE 30 JULY 7, 14, 21, 2005

### STATEMENT FILE A-0286390-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: L5 Productions, LLC, 1261  
Howard St., 3rd Floor, San Francisco,  
Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by  
a limited liability company, signed  
Lynn Herselman. The registrant(s) com-  
menced to transact business under the  
above listed fictitious business name or  
names on 6/16/05. The statement was  
filed with the City and County of San  
Francisco, Ca. on 6/23/05.

JUNE 30 JULY 7, 14, 21, 2005

### STATEMENT FILE A-0286314-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:  
Fogon, 659 Union St., San Francisco, Ca.  
94133. This business is conducted by a corpo-  
ration, signed Edward Tinsley. The registrant(s)  
commenced to transact business under the  
above listed fictitious business name or names  
on 6/20/05. The statement was filed with the  
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on  
6/21/05.

JUNE 30 JULY 7, 14, 21, 2005

### STATEMENT FILE A-0286312-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:  
Al-Hamra Indian & Pakistani Restau-  
rant, 3083 16th St., San Francisco, Ca.  
94103. This business is conducted by a  
general partnership, signed Irfan Kashif,  
Ajaz Ghani. The registrant(s) commenced  
to transact business under the above listed  
fictitious business name or names on  
6/20/05. The statement was filed with the  
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on  
6/21/05.

JUNE 30 JULY 7, 14, 21, 2005

### STATEMENT FILE A-0286026-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:  
Make It Happen Entertainment, 355 Serrano  
Dr. 4E, San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This  
business is conducted by an individual,  
signed Shane Robinson. The registrant(s)  
commenced to transact business under the  
above listed fictitious business name or  
names on 6/09/05. The statement was filed  
with the City and County of San Francisco,  
Ca. on 6/09/05.

JUNE 30 JULY 7, 14, 21, 2005

### STATEMENT FILE A-0286481-00

The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Hooker's Gumbo Shack, 35 6th St., San  
Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is con-  
ducted by a general partnership, signed  
James E. Hooker. The registrant(s) com-  
menced to transact business under the above  
listed fictitious business name or names on  
10/01/04. The statement was filed with the  
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on  
6/28/05.

JUNE 30 JULY 7, 14, 21, 2005

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #0282379

The following person(s) have abandoned the  
use of the fictitious business name known as  
Catiium located at 345 12th Ave., San Fran-  
cisco, Ca. 94118-2108. This business was  
conducted by an individual signed Daniel  
Catalaa. The fictitious name was filed with  
the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on  
1/26/05.

JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The name of the  
applicant is/are Bird Brain LLC. The ap-  
plicants listed above are applying to the  
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control  
at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San  
Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic  
beverages at: 572 Castro St. San Fran-  
cisco, Ca. 94114. Type of License applied for:  
42 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE -  
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JUNE 30, JULY 7, 14, 2005

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF AL- COHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To whom it may concern: The name of the  
applicant is/are Fringale Inc. The ap-  
plicants listed above are applying to the De-  
partment of Alcoholic Beverage Control at  
71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San Fran-  
cisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic  
beverages at: 570 Fourth St., San Fran-  
cisco, Ca. 94107. Type of License applied for:47 - ON-SALE GENERAL EATING  
PLACE  
JUNE 30, 2005

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The name of the ap-  
plicants is/are Supreme Chicken Of 24th  
Street LLC. The applicants listed above are  
applying to the Department of Alcoholic Be-  
verage Control at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite  
#1500 San Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell al-  
coholic beverages at: 2801 Folsom St., San  
Francisco, Ca. 94110. Type of License applied  
for:41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE -  
EATING PLACE  
JUNE 30, JULY 7, 14, 2005

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The name of the ap-  
plicants is/are Supreme Chicken Columbus  
LLC. The applicants listed above are applying  
to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage  
Control at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500  
San Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic  
beverages at: 279 Columbus Ave., San Fran-  
cisco, Ca. 94133. Type of License applied  
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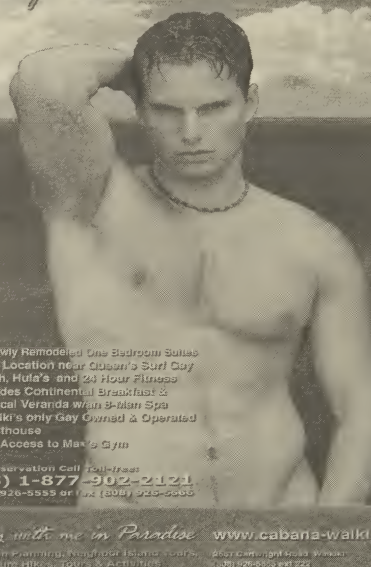



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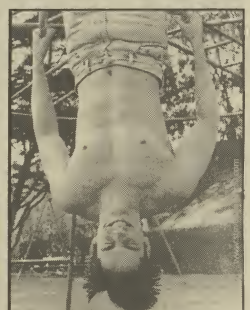
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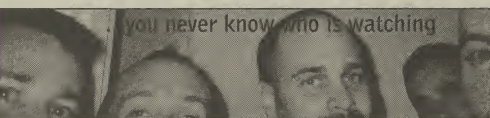
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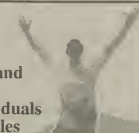
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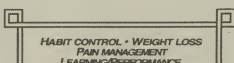
  
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**LGBTQ literature and literati**  
Report from the 17th Annual Lambda  
Literary Awards held in New York City.

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**Brunch with pride**  
Leftover dish from the  
Grand Marshal brunch.

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**Irish spring**  
Uncloistered world of  
'Dolly West's Kitchen.'

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 26 • 30 June 2005

## LGBT TV conquers the tube



Four leads  
from the cast  
of Logo's  
original series  
*Noah's Arc*.

Anthony Cannino/Logo

### Showtime network's Logo gay channel debuts on cable

by David Nahmod

**S**tarting today, Thursday, June 30, another new network will be vying for bandwidth space in the ever-expanding world of digital cable TV. Showtime Networks, in conjunction with their parent company Viacom, begins presenting Logo. It's a 24/7 gay channel that promises to be MTV, TV Land, Turner Classic Movies, CNN and more, all rolled into one, for an LGBT audience hungry to see more images representative of themselves.

For a number of years, Showtime has been the unofficial "gay network." Their huge success with queer primetime soaps like *Queer as Folk* and *The L Word* led to a wild experiment. For three years, Showtime's second-tier digital channel Showcase devoted Wednesday nights to gay programming. The concept was simple. Show a recent *Queer as Folk* episode, follow it with an episode of *Queer Duck*, an hilarious animated series about a gay talking duck and his friends, then show a queer film. The films were generally safe, mainstream fare like *Desert Hearts* or *The Birdcage*.

The concept of all-gay programming appealed to its target audience, and the little-watched, little-known Showcase found its

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## Child molesters in clerical disguise

### Made-for-HBO documentary film 'Twist of Faith' plays at the Roxie

by David Lamble

**I**n *Twist of Faith*, opening Friday at the Roxie Cinema, we meet two men whose lives crossed paths fatefully in a seemingly idyllic place, a vacation cabin by a lake. In the opening scene, Dennis Gray, a former Catholic priest, is being questioned in a legal deposition. The off-screen voice of an attorney asks him why he went into the priesthood. Later, we sense that this may be the only moment in the film when Gray will state his true feelings about something that matters. "Well, I decided it was a good life if I was a priest."

Moments later, we're introduced to Toledo fire-fighter Tony Comes. Standing in uniform in a grade

school classroom under bright red letters that read "Signs of God," Comes asks the kids, "Any of you guys know what monsters look like?"

Just as we sense that the ex-priest Dennis Gray is hiding behind a mask and that we will never hear the truth from his lips, we immediately grasp that Tony Comes will tell us a great deal about himself, perhaps more than we can bear to hear. Although he lacks the great actor's girth, Tony comes off as the real embodiment of all those wounded men that Nick Nolte has spent a lifetime playing. At the climax of Paul Schrader's adaptation of Russell Banks' novel *The Affliction*, Nolte's Wade Whitehouse sets fire to the small farmhouse where he grew up under the reign of a brutal alcoholic father. Early in *Twist of Faith*, Tony walks us around the small wooden cabin where he says he lost his faith in God, and his trust in the man he was coming to think of as a second father, the then-priest Dennis Gray.

"What happened at the cottage stayed at the cottage. I'd burn this place down if I could. We'd come up here, eat, drink and shoot pool. The part where it gets weird is Sunday morning, you wake up and some guy is sucking your dick. Take a shower, and a half-hour later Denny's up in the living room saying Mass. Here this guy just got done violating you, and here he's saying,

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Tony Comes  
in *Twist  
of Faith*

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



# A June for the misbegotten

## Pocketful of Pride for the queerest month in review

by Roberto Friedman

We don't know if the calendar month of June was named for the original strong-woman role model, Roman goddess **Juno**. But for those of us toiling in the gay press, the month, if not the deity, is a real bitch. Before it's all over, let's catch up on all manner of gay items while we dig out from Pride detritus, shall we?

Two Saturday nights back, transgender scholar **Susan Stryker** and professor **Victor Silverman** screened their video *Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria* at the Castro Theatre as part of the Frameline29 juggernaut. This documentary recaptures the night back in 1966 (three years before Stonewall) when transgender prostitutes and gay activists fought back against police harassment at a popular

tranny hang-out in the Tenderloin. The presentation took on added meaning and poignancy when, from the Castro stage, Stryker introduced retired SFPD officer **Elliot Blackstone**, who supported the rights of transnics way back in the '60s, long before we queers had our own TV channels and hair products. An unsung hero of gay liberation, finally sung!

Out There didn't make it to the annual SF Pride press party last week, held at the ultrahip Bambuddha Lounge, but some of our colleagues sure did, and they reported that celeb

grand marshal/former NFL player **Esera Tuaolo**, big as an SF kiosk, picked up cute little celeb grand marshal/TV star **Alec Mapa**, tiny as an iPod, and threw him across the room to celeb grand marshal/*The L Word* creator **Ilene Chaiken** for a game-winning score for the home team.



Out There



At Castro, Susan Stryker introduces retired SFPD officer Elliot Blackstone.

Gosh, do you think our fellow editors could be putting us on?

We finally caught ACT's excellent production of **Edward Albee's** *The Goat or, Who Is Sylvia?* Notes toward a Definition of Tragedy during the fabulous Out with ACT/LGBT night performance/party at the Geary Theater last week. And no, the G in LGBT does not stand for Goat-lovers, who have their own special evening planned.

Frameline29 closed out its unusually strong line-up of LGBTQ films on Pride Sunday with closing-night film *Transamerica*, the darkish comedy in which transitioning MTF Bree (Dangerous Housewives' **Felicity Huffman**) tries to knock some sense into messed-up biological son Toby (**Kevin Zegers**) during a cross-country road trip. Director **Duncan Tucker**, apparently his real name, was in the house, as was delicious young starlet Zegers, for an afterfilm Q&A. The audience ate them up.

We saw it coming: Late-breaking news at the film fest's wrap party, thrown in grand style at the elegant ballroom of the Old Federal Reserve, was that *Transamerica* had won Frameline's Audience

award for Best Feature. The bawdy playlist from party band **Pepperspray** added to the bash's upbeat mood. Sure enough, our phone was ringing the next morning with a Miramax publicist on the other end, assuring us that yes, **Harvey Weinstein** picked it up, and *Transamerica* is set for an initial limited release in December. That's so that Huffman's performance can contend for Academy Award consideration.

Where in the world was Out There on Pride Sunday, closest thing to Gay X-mas on the queer calendar? Here, there, and everywhere, schmoozing with buddies in Faerie Village and the Hairrison St. Bear Garden. Visiting with tranny fantasy girl **Cassandra Cass**, who has her very own pin-up calendar coming out for 2006. Checking out the strong men of Colt Studio and the bounteous beaus of Bel Ami, where photographer **Steven Underhill** snapped away at current studs and



Cal gal Cassandra Cass at Pride.

then strapped to two enormous, rotating wheels. When they came to, they struggled mightily against their restraints, but to no avail. If only Batman weren't handcuffed, he could pull a useful tool out of his famous bat utility belt! Young Master Out There found himself strangely aroused by this. QED.

### Straight ghetto

O June, the month when ostensibly straight publications feel the need to put out their "queer" issues. For some reason, the big daily paper's "big gay issue" came out three weekends before Pride Day, and featured a straight woman comedian on the cover. Next cover was a dog with a paper in its mouth. Are they telling us something? An "alternative" weekly featured a local drag celeb on its cover not connected with a feature, but a listings page partly ghost-written for the occasion.

But our favorite instance of the straight media "bending over backwards" to mark Queer Pride Month came delivered in the Sunday *New York Times* issue which featured both the cover story "Gay or Straight? Hard to Tell" in its *Styles* section and the cover story "What's the Movement to Outlaw Gay Marriage Really About?" in the *Magazine*. On the one hand, the *Times* told us, anti-gay-marriage groups are convinced we're all sick, sick, sick; on the other, it seems no one can tell gay us from our hetero brothers, anyway! Does not compute!

The gist of the *Styles* article was that gays can be slob, while straights may well care about grooming — news to just about no one except the *Times*. There was even a laughably earnest chart in the jump wherein items of clothing and pop culture were placed into the categories Straight, Gay and "Gay Vague," which we gather means "Confusing to Mother." Take this chart example, category Underwear: "Straight: Tommy Hilfinger. Gay Vague: 2xist. Gay: Baskin." Since OT styles JC Penney Y-fronts, this would put us somewhere approaching minus-12 on the Kinsey Scale. TM!

We simply don't agree with the NYT's categories. Check out the way the chart divvies up Coke products. "Straight: Coke Classic. Gay Vague: Diet Coke. Gay: Diet Coke with lemon." Most gay users of Coke products know the correct answer in the last category has nothing to do with lemons, and everything to do with fruits doing bumps in the boys' room. Don't tell the *Times*. ▼

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Retired Bel Ami porn star Lucas.

retired star **Lucas**. For Out There's part, we were blinded by the beauty.

### Gay epiphany

When I Knew, a lovely new illustrated coffee-table tome from Regan Books, contains reminiscences by gay writers of when exactly they first copped to themselves that they were queer. OT remembers vividly when we first knew we were a little gay boy. We know you didn't ask, but here it is anyway. We were watching a bondage scene set in the villain's lair in the original, campy '60s TV series *Batman*. As we recall, **Batman** and **Robin the Boy Wonder** had been captured, drugged,







# Far-flung and far-fetched domestics

'Dolly West's Kitchen' is a gay haven in small-town '40s Ireland

by Richard Dodds

If you are going to Buncrana, be sure to wear some flowers in your hair. And some rouge on your cheeks, if you're a guy. The most gay-friendly spot on the planet is not San Francisco, according to playwright Frank McGuinness, but the small town in 1940s Ireland depicted in *Dolly West's Kitchen*. Well, maybe not the whole town, but certainly in the West home, where Mother West brings home a gay American soldier so her deeply repressed son can finally get some loving.

Cartoning about the titular kitchen upon his post-pub arrival, the soldier, on his way to battle in Europe, applies some rouge without causing much fuss. "No Nazi is going to bitch about my bone structure," explains this yakety Yank. Nor does dating a bisexual much faze daughter Dolly. "You can have both in me," she says when her beau acknowledges he likes both men and women.

Irish playwright McGuinness, best known for the hostage drama *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, is himself gay, though not necessarily thought of as an author of gay plays. TheatreWorks is presenting

the American premiere of *Dolly West's Kitchen*, and it's an interesting change of pace from the cloistered Irish worlds lately created by Martin McDonagh and Conor McPherson. The Wests may live in a small town, but they know about the world beyond County Donegal. Daughter Dolly even ran a restaurant in Italy until Mussolini came to power.

The most interesting dynamic in the play revolves around Ireland's declared neutrality in the Second World War, and this fuels resentment from British and Americans soldiers stationed nearby, just across the border in Northern Ireland, who see their Irish counterparts as cowards. Irish resentment of the British, and by association, the Americans, is also amply and movingly voiced.

The play is loosely plotted, rambling among the various characters' demons, desires, and romantic complications. Unfortunately, where this is least credible is in the gay subplot, as contemporary sensibilities and language keep poking through. That a "twisted mean sissy queen" could survive in the US Army of 60 years ago is a lot to buy into.

As the dragoon gay American soldier, Christian Conn doesn't bring much nuance to the hyper-homo he acts out for the West family. But Charlotte Cornwall's performance as the West matriarch really does shimmer. "I'm a bad bitch who says what she likes," she announces, and we see that and so much more in



Soldiers Marco (top, Christian Conn) and Justin (Jeremy Bobb) together.

Cornwall's deep performance.

As the title character, Stacy Ross offers a no-nonsense performance as a matriarch in the making. As her on-again, off-again boyfriend, Mark Phillips has a pip-pip English manner that contrasts amusingly with his earthier Irish friends. Jeremy Bobb effectively plays the handsome West son with an anger that masks his sexual frustrations. Desiree Matthews, Lanie MacEwan, Simon Vance, and Craig W. Marker, as family members and the objects of their affections, are well

cast in director Robert Kelley's comfortable production.

*Dolly West's Kitchen* is a pleasant place to visit, even if its fairies seem imported from another time and place. There is also a fairy-tale ending that, sadly, comes out of no known reality. ▼

*Dolly West's Kitchen* will run at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts through July 10. Tickets are \$20-\$52. Call (650) 903-6000 or go to [theatreworks.org](http://theatreworks.org).

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM KANAGIS

## Modern love & eccentricity

'Me and You and Everyone We Know'

by David Lamble

If you can wrap your mind around the unique little world that first-time writer/director Miranda July creates in this wonderfully funny and humane comedy, you're in for a real treat. July, whose work is familiar to regular followers of National Public Radio's *The Next Big Thing*, plays Christine, a multimedia artist who supports herself as an Eldercab driver. Christine is smitten by a down-at-the-heels, newly divorced shoe salesman named Richard (John Hawkes). Richard is trying to raise two beautiful mixed-race sons (Miles Thompson and Brandon Ratcliff) while trying to have some kind of a life.

Some reviewers have perceived, in this gentle fantasy world, the flip-side to the dark comedies of Todd Solondz. "It's funny, I've been following him on this tour, so he's come up a lot," said July. "To me, my movie is sort of hopeful, but I also think I'm interested in things that don't work out and do go completely wrong. There's a lot of other stuff in my head quite a few shades darker. But I was quite conscious of not wanting to put that in this movie, because I felt people would shut down to things I wanted to stay open to. Also that they would become a little too invested in plot. If you're really worried about someone's safety, you start to disengage from what you're feeling."



Richard (John Hawkes) is a down-at-the-heels, divorced shoe salesman.

In some ways, *Me and You and Everyone We Know* could be subtitled *Confessions of a Berkeley Childhood*. July credits a kind and mentoring older brother with compensating for a pair of parents who were a tad self-absorbed. He provided her with the model for the nurturing older/younger brother relationship between Robby and Peter.

"I grew up in Berkeley to two parents who will admit themselves that they were just figuring out how to be parents. I think there was a freedom in that—I thought I was an adult half the time. I had a pen-pal who was in prison when

I was a teenager. It was a major relationship in my life, not a romantic one. There are just certain things that somehow slipped under the radar of my parents. It was Berkeley, and everyone was kind of doing their own thing. It's great, as a kid, to see that adults can be like that: people whose lives are not revolving around kids, but around themselves. I'm just starting to look at that upbringing in this movie."

**Pratfall-prone**

Fans of July will enjoy a film where all the characters, kids and

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## BOOKS

# Lammies lavished on LGBTQ literati

Report from the Lambda Literary Awards ceremony in NYC

by Rachel Pepper

The recipients of the 17th Annual Lambda Literary Awards were announced at a gala reception and awards ceremony in New York City on June 2. Emceed by the indefatigable comedian and Broadway actress Lea DeLaria, the awards were hosted by the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at CUNY in Manhattan, and held during the annual Book-Expo America convention. The awards ceremony, which drew more than 300 luminaries in the world of LGBTQ writing and publishing, annually celebrates the achievements in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender literature for books published the previous year. Categories for awards include best romance and erotica, best gay men's and lesbian fiction, best poetry, best anthology, and best young adult/children's book with a gay or lesbian theme.

The Lammies, always a congenial affair, this year attracted the usual mix of senior editors, small and large press publishers and publicists, experienced and fledgling writers, journalists, graphic artists, celebrities and slush-pile cogs. With over 25 awards to give



Author Eve Ensler, bridge builder.

out, all presented by writers who themselves needed introducing, the Lammies stretched well into the evening. Those attendees who stuck it out were treated to a bevy of our community's best, including performer Charles Busch presenting the memoir category, multiple-nominee upstart Suspect Thoughts Press's enthused acceptance for their book *I Do/I Don't: Queers on Marriage*, and Mariette Pathy Allen, author of *The Gender Frontier*, which won the transgender category, blurting out, "I've never

been so astonished in all my life!"

*Vagina Monologues* author Eve Ensler accepted a special Bridge Builder Award by noting that "creating better understanding between gays and straights is less about building bridges, and more about excavating the crud between us." *New York Times* best-selling Eleanor Roosevelt-biographer Blanche Weisen Cooke accepted the Pioneer Award, and two new \$1,000 prizes were given this year for debuting authors in both gay and lesbian fiction, which went to Blair Mastbaum for his novel *Clay's Way*, and Judith Frank for *Cry Baby Butch*. A \$500 prize for best Independent LGBT Press was awarded to Bella Books, who have taken over the legacy of Naiad Press in publishing lesbian romantic fiction. The Editor's Choice Award went to Richard Canning for his anthology *Hear Us Out: Conversations with Gay Novelists*.

Notable winners in other categories included Colm Toibin for gay men's fiction with *The Master*, Stacey D'Erasmo for best lesbian fiction for *A Seahorse Year*, the award-winning play *I Am My Own Wife* by Doug Wright for drama, and perennial favorite Katherine V. Forrest for her latest mystery, *Hancock Park*. Forrest



Mystery writer Katherine V. Forrest.

saluted "all the partners of writers in this room," and concluded by saying she was "so proud I write for this wonderful community." Sci-fi writer Jim Grooms thanked "the independent bookstores that made my career," and others thanked the Lambda Literary Foundation for their support. Gay but mainstream writer David Sedaris won the humor category

for his latest book *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, which his publicist accepted for him by saying, "David couldn't be here, he's too busy signing autographs for adoring fans."

Adding some star-power to the evening were *Style* TV drag talk-show host Brini Maxwell presenting the Humor Award, porn-star-turned-poet Aiden Shaw presenting the Erotica Award, erotic writer and anthologist Tristan Taormino, and the ever-glamorous and multi-tattooed Michelle Tea, who attended with Laurenn McCubbin, the illustrator for Tea's graphic novel *Rent Girl*.

From hundreds of books nominated by their publishers and other authorized agents, five nominees were selected in each of 20 categories. Panels of writers, who this year included Dorothy Allison, Christopher Bram, and Richard LaBonte, act as judges in each category, and determine the final winner from the finalists. The Lambda Literary Awards are produced by the nonprofit Lambda Literary Foundation. ▼

## Talking heads

by Jim Nawrocki

*Bullets & Butterflies: Queer Spoken Word Poetry* edited by Emanuel Xavier; Suspect Thoughts Press, \$16.95 trade paper

Earlier this year, a reader took one of *The New York Times Book Review's* poetry critics to task for praising the "turgid, intellectualized, affected nonsense" of many contemporary poets, and concluded: "Our poetic establishment is in the grip of fraud or delusion." If the verse published by the university presses and leading literary journals is indeed becoming more arcane and less accessible to the general reading public, perhaps the emergence and growing popularity of spoken word poetry and "poetry slams" are a reaction against that trend, or at least an attempt to reclaim poetry for the masses. American popular culture is becoming increasingly fragmented and de-generalized (just look at the proliferation of musical genres and specialized cable channels), so is it any surprise that the same can happen in a field such as poetry?

When one surveys the work of spoken-word poets, one is struck by the sense of democratization that the form seems to promote. There's a palpable sense of solidarity in the project of spoken word poetry. Yes, its practitioners value, reward, and strive for the formal perfection of their craft, but spoken word seems to be more about content, social consciousness, and personal identity than form. *Bullets & Butterflies*, a new collection of queer spoken word poetry, does little to dispel that notion. The affirmation of marginalized identities, especially in terms of racial, gender and



sexual identity, is one of the most pronounced themes in spoken word poetry.

It's worth noting that this anthology contains fairly substantial biographical introductions for all 13 contributors, and nearly all of them offer considerable insight into the ethnic and class identity of the writers. With few exceptions, most of the contributors are in their 20s and 30s, so it's fair to say that spoken word performance is especially popular among younger artists, and there's a strong sense of youthful rebellion in much of this work.

It is, perhaps, more appropriate to refer to spoken word poets as artists, or even performance artists, than as writers *per se*. Spoken word "readings" aren't simply recitations of poems, they're theatrical events. Because of this, reading a collection of spoken word poems in an anthology is an incomplete experience, perhaps even an inferior one. Interestingly, Bob Holman makes quite the opposite point in his foreword to the collection, arguing that the printing of these pieces allows readers to study and savor their textual dimension in a way that is

not possible in the fleeting, free and spontaneous atmosphere of the performance.

### Shock therapy

The queer men and women represented in this collection offer numerous descriptions, meditations and explorations of sexual themes. Some attempt to shock, such as Shane Luijens in his piece "they straight boy (i'll fuck ya)" and Shailja Patel in "this is how it feels," and others offer up more tender treatments of the subject, such as Emanuel Xavier's "clean." But all who approach the subject seem intent on facing it in full in the face. There's something tiresome about this, but it's a phenomenon not restricted to spoken word poetry — it's an issue that seems to haunt queer writing in general.

*Bullets & Butterflies* contains as many meditations on racial themes as it does sexual ones. Several contributors are people of color, and they often seem to revel in explorations of ethnic themes. Patel's "dreaming in gujarati" takes as its topic, as many works in this collection do, the immigrant's sense of displacement in the face of a new, different and dominant culture. Reggie Cabico's "gameboy" dishes out a somewhat satirical, politicized take on "rice queens," and Celena Glenn's "abner louima" is an angry response to a notorious case of racial profiling and abuse by white police officers of a black victim. The sense of being victimized, in fact, seems to drive many of these spoken word poems, and in that regard they resonate with themes that have long been a preoccupation of gay fiction, poetry and drama. There are hits and misses in this collection, but it's a good representation of what is an undeniably vibrant art form. ▼

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# Three movies to watch out for

Now playing in Bay Area cinemas, and worth a look

by David Lamble

## Sex, Politics and Cocktails

In this good-natured satire of LA dating rituals, first-time filmmaker Julien Hernandez plays Sebastian, a second-generation Cuban-American who has the comic good luck to be raised by a distracted mother in New Jersey. As we meet him, Sebastian has wrangled an assignment to film the mating habits of an assortment of upwardly mobile and consumer-mad Hispanic gay, bi- and metro- sexuals. Encompassing a series of extended cocktail parties in a pseudo-documentary style, Hernandez's film takes a scattershot approach to comedy, throwing any and all types of physical and verbal humor at the wall, and mostly keeping what sticks. Inevitably, there are too



Caterina (Alice Teghil) is a country bumpkin relocated to the big city.

many characters and scenes that cry out to be trimmed, such as an extended ethnic-doctor skit, and an occasionally funny but labored

sequence concerning a woman who becomes insatiably nymphomaniacal in the presence of a man with extraordinary good cocksmanliness. Overall, there are some juicy gags at the expense of bossy bottoms, speed-dating parties and women with strap-ons.

Ironically, this is one actor/director who doesn't give himself enough close-ups, meaning the film is in a better gear when it cuts from the cartoonish supporting cast and sticks with Sebastian's own goofy search for love. A kind of male Marga Gomez, Hernandez combines a look that is both easy on the eyes (the film would be twice as appealing if he had kept his shirt off through more than one scene) and sitcom-funny. Despite some overly obvious touches, *Sex, Politics and Cocktails* (I really never got where the politics came in) feels true to LA-LA land, which is in itself depressingly funny. (Plays the Castro Theatre, July 1-7.)

**Caterina in the City** Not since *Y Tu Mama Tambien* has there been a kickass teen movie that also takes a sharply satirical view of adult dilemmas and politics. Actor Sergio Castellitto is painfully funny as an ineffectual bully of a father who quits his small-town teaching job to expose his reluctant daughter to the benefits of life in Roma. The opening scene has the pompous dad lecturing a class of rude teens straight out of *Ferris*



Francois Ozon's *5x2* tracks a love affair backwards, divorce to beginning.

*Bueller* (complete with on-desk drooling). Dad tells Caterina (Alice Teghil, in an awesome screen debut as a shy country bumpkin who grows up without growing bitter) that she'll blossom by attending his old high school. The school turns out to be a mosh-pit of adolescent class warfare, where left-wing snobs battle posers and earnest young working-class Fascists.

Caterina, at first afraid even of uttering the name of her armpit of a coastal town, is recruited by all factions, in the process experiencing a teenage *La Dolce Vita*. LA-style *Mean Girls* have nothing on Italian teens in the pursuit of popularity, although some scenes, like Caterina caught up with an upscale group of girl shoplifters who deposit their swag in dad's limo for a getaway to a truly decadent party, resemble the wilder moments in Catherine Hardwicke's brilliant *Thirteen*.

Director Paolo Virzi balances twin stories of the father's humiliation by his social betters with his daughter's fate at the hands of a spoiled rich boy. A neat subplot has the daughter spied on by a camera-wielding, crafty, cute Australian boy with better intentions. (Now playing.)

**5x2** Openly gay French master Francois Ozon tackles the subject of the end of love in a film that spirals backwards in time from divorce to the first blush of passion. Ozon is never at a loss for detect-

ing the slightest fault lines that will lead to major tremors in a relationship. Here he front-loads the action so that most of the movie's punch comes in what would normally be the first act.

We first observe Marion (Valeria Bruni-Tedeschi) and Gilles (Stephane Freiss) side by side as they hear their final divorce decree read to them, the formal language brutally clinical in its assessment of the abject failure of love. The second scene takes a wild turn when Gilles' attempt at a farewell hump in the sack dissolves into a virtual rape.

The third and perhaps the film's most delicious sequence has Marion and Gilles entertaining a gay couple (older French guy and his hot and faithless Algerian boyfriend) with free-flowing wine and reckless secrets that reveal the odd nature of their pairing. The film segues to the birth of their son, when Gilles can't bring himself to make a timely hospital visit, and Marion's mom breathes fresh life into some creaky mother-in-law jokes.

Sad to say, Ozon fails to keep us emotionally engaged in the later acts — the beginning of the relationship, but the end of the movie — where we see the truly accidental nature of the couple's first fling at a summer resort. Ozon gets an ironic swim-into-the-sunset ending which, unfortunately, does not quite match up with the tsunami of the opening act. (Now playing.) ▼



*Sex, Politics and Cocktails* is a satire of metrosexual dating rituals in LA.

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## Operatic airs charm SF Pride



Karen Slack and Mark Coles of the San Francisco Opera company sing a piece from *Porgy and Bess* out, loud and proud during SFO's first-ever appearance on the Main Stage in Civic Center for last Saturday's Pride celebrations. Ten international and local singers from SFO's summer season and Adler Fellows program performed operatic favorites for an appreciative audience. The program also included performances by the National GALA Chorus and the Glide Memorial Church Choir. ▼



## FILM

# Holy superhero franchise, Batman!

Back to the batcave with bonny Batman Christian Bale

by Tim Nason

Nearly 20 years ago, at age 12, Christian Bale stole hearts and captivated audiences in the leading role of Steven Spielberg's WWII epic *Empire of the Sun*.

Two years later, in 1989, the first *Batman* movie, directed by Tim Burton, starring Michael Keaton (as Batman) and Jack Nicholson (as The Riddler), was released, going on to become the year's highest-grossing film. It took in \$251 million, which if ad-

justed for inflation would be more than \$400 million today.

Fast-forward to last summer, 2004. Academy Award winner Halle Berry donned the Catsuit and starred as *Catwoman*. The film, the fifth in the *Batman* franchise, stunk up theaters faster than any cat could fill a litter box. It could make anyone hesitate before plunking down \$10 at the box office for the latest in the series, *Batman Begins*.

*Batman Begins*, now playing on summer screens, is directed by award-winner Christopher Nolan (*Memento*) and boasts an ensemble

of Academy Award winners and nominees: Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine, Tom Wilkinson, Gary Oldman, Liam Neeson, and Ken Watanabe. The only spoiler *Batman Begins* has attached to it is Katie Holmes, who has attached herself to Tom Cruise, in what seems to be the biggest publicity stunt of both of their careers thus far.

Bale's own relationship has lasted more than five years. He is married to Winona Ryder's former publicist, whom he met on the set of *Little Women* more than a decade ago. The couple just had their first child, a baby girl, in March.

Standing six feet, two inches tall, Bale is the first actor since Adam West to play *Batman* at the height he has in the comic books first released in 1939.

Bale is eager to point out that though his is a *Batman* movie, it's more like the latest *Star Wars* film, in that it starts at the story's beginning. "It isn't a sequel, it is the beginning. If there is ever a box set, this one should be seen first, so that everyone can see the story in context. Unlike the previous *Batman* movies, where the villains are the most interesting characters, in this film, *Batman* is the main character, and we see how he actually becomes *Batman*."

"The bat is a personal symbol to him," says Bale. "It was something that caused him much fright as a child, a constant reminder of the night his parents were murdered. He uses the bat disguise as



Unlike most child actors, Christian Bale went on to an adult film career.

a means to intimidate others and manipulate their fears, as well as master his own."

#### Psycho killer

Christian Bale, unlike most children who appear in Steven

Spielberg films, has continued to earn his living as an actor. In the '90s, he appeared in a couple of Disney films, as the lead in *Newsies* and a voice in *Pocahontas*, in addition to bit parts in a hand-

next page ►

## Twist of Faith

◀ Arts cover

'Body of Christ, body of Christ.' It was too screwed up to question."

Filmmaker Kirby Dick is perhaps the perfect artist to have conducted this searing autopsy into the state of Catholic culture in America, in the wake of revelations that more than 10,000 children and adolescents were sexually molested by almost 5,000 individual priests. It's an understatement to refer to Dick's 25-year film work as edgy. Titles like *Private Practices: The Story of a Sex Surrogate and Sick: The Life & Death of Bob Flanagan, Supermasochist* reveal the sensibility of a director who doesn't hesitate to shock in pursuit of the truth. In *Sick, Flanagan*, a heterosexual masochist with a somewhat more staid gay brother, stages an almost unbearable screen moment when the audience is invited to watch his penis pierced by a nail. My 19-year-old companion dove under his seat at the Mill Valley screening — I would have probably joined him if not constrained by my own Nolte-like girth. In the publicity for *Sick*, Flanagan explained why he did these things. "Because I'm a Catholic; because I still love Lent, I still love my penis, and in spite of it all, I have no guilt; because my parents said, 'Be what you want to be.'"

Tony Comes' parents said Catholic school is good for you. Dick's cameras give us the painful reasons why Comes couldn't bring himself to tell them why it wasn't. Giving Tony and wife Wendy personal cameras to capture thoughts they were not quite ready to utter with someone else in the room, Dick shows us the emotional arc of a man who tortures himself over why he didn't turn in the priest and thus spare some other kid the same agony. We observe Tony confessing details of the abuse to his nine-year-old daughter, who in another powerful subplot is preparing for her confirmation at the same church that betrayed her dad. Wendy Comes tells us she married Tony because he was one of the rare men who could articulate his feelings about her and their possible life together. We observe that life teetering on the brink of divorce court as Tony's obsession with justice from the Church totally dominates family activities.

For gay viewers, a powerful scene has a younger and out gay man abused by the same priest confessing to Tony and another abuse survivor how he came to identify the priest's misdeeds as a kind of preview of coming attractions of what adult gay life would be like. "It ruined for me any sex I had with gay men after that for

several years. The only way I could have a relationship with someone was to have sex with them. That was what I thought would make them like me." Later, gay and straight men share darkly funny priest jokes and affectionate hugs.

#### Stonewall strategy

*Twist of Faith* painfully documents the Toledo Archdiocese's efforts to stonewall a settlement. Tony's female attorney explains a little-known fact of Catholic life. "Under canon law, a priest is authorized to lie if it's in the interest of the Church, to protect the Church from scandal. It's called mental reservation." And lie they do. One Toledo bishop literally lies into the grave, while his successor engages in the kind of spin-doctoring we associate with the White House Press Office. In a 2002 piece in *The New York Review of Books*, Gary Wills mused about why church authorities didn't act against serially abusive priests. "His superiors worried little about what he did. Was that because they were more concerned with what he knew?" Filmmaker Dick hints that at least one Toledo auxiliary bishop may have had something to hide about his early mentoring relationship with Father Gray.

Close to the end of his tether, Tony confesses a lurid fantasy to the camera in his pickup truck. "The overwhelming urge is to drive down where the Bishop is laid to rest and piss on his grave, but in light of things, I think I'll hold off on that. But I'll do it. And Denny, when you're dead, I'll piss on your grave, too."

A key moment in the film comes in a telling chat between Tony and his mother. Mom says that Tony didn't tell her and his father about the abuse until he left school to join that other great bastion of hetero role models, the United States Navy. Sitting in their family room, Mom tells a chain-smoking Tony how she can distrust one part of the Church but still put money in the collection plate on Sunday.

"The church is to me like any large company: sometimes, the right hand doesn't even know what the left hand is doing."

Tony loses it. "They know. They damn well know that this is tearing up marriages, that this is tearing up individuals. They know, and the sons of bitches don't do anything to stop it."

"Watch your language." Fortunately, filmmaker Kirby Dick doesn't take Mom's advice, providing us with yet another example of why the cover-up can be worse than the original crime. Catch this made-for-HBO documentary at the Roxie for a big-screen glimpse at evil in clerical-drag disguise. ▼

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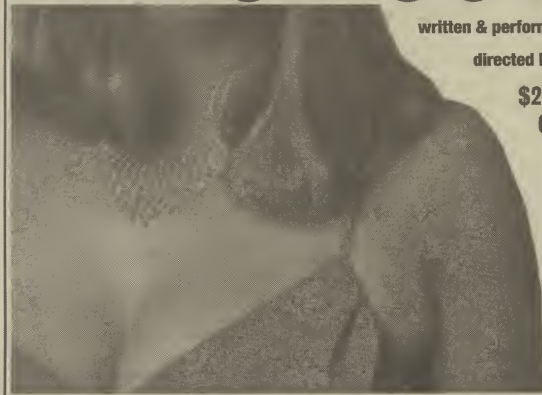
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# Summer daze in front of the flatscreen

by Victoria A. Brownworth

What a thrilling week on the tube! We aren't sure what we liked best, the sparring between Sen. Ted Kennedy and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, or between Matt Lauer and Tom Cruise, or between the San Antonio Spurs and the Detroit Pistons. Talk about being spoiled for choice!

Let's start with the NBA finals. We admit, we believe basketball to be the only sport worthy of watching if one isn't actually playing. It's fast enough to be exciting, complicated enough to be interesting, and the players actually have to be skilled to win.

In our years of devotion to the sport, it has been some time since we watched such a spectacular series of games with two so well-matched and superb teams.

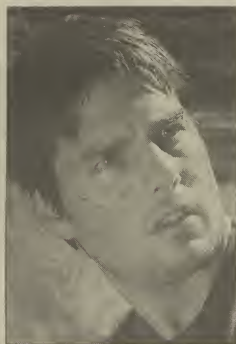
Let's repeat that: *Teams*. What we loved most about this series was that the Pistons and the Spurs both play as *teams*. Sure, the Pistons have Ben and Rasheed Wallace and Chauncey Billups who couldn't be more fabulous, and the Spurs have Tim Duncan and Robert Horry and the adorable come-from-behind Manu Ginobili. But *everyone* plays, everyone gets off the bench, and everyone is respectful of everyone else.

If last year's champion Pistons had to lose to a team after seven games (the first NBA series to go to seven since 1994), then the Spurs were deserving opponents (listening, Lakers?). Post-game, everyone had good things to say about everyone else. It's called sportsmanship. What a concept.

Speaking of (poor) sports, we are officially over Tom Cruise. Yes, he's cute. But as Craig Ferguson noted in his June 24 monologue on CBS' *The Late Late Show*, he seems to be off his medication. (We are so in love with Ferguson right now, but more on him later.)

We let Cruise slide with the jumping around on Oprah's sofa. We thought his response to the guys who punked him with water in the face at the London premiere of *War of the Worlds* last week was very restrained. But we have slammed the guys in the face with more than a fake mic filled with water.) But his altercation with Matt Lauer on the June 24 *Today* show was waaaaay over the top.

We get that Cruise is in love (or something) with Katie Holmes.



Was Cruise off his meds this week?

We get that he's deeply immersed in the cult religion of Scientology. But we missed the part where he got a medical degree, thus became qualified to tell people to stop taking medication because it doesn't work, and to stay away from psychiatry because it's a crutch.

When he went after his good friend Brooke Shields on this topic last month when she was discussing her life-threatening (to her and her baby) bout with postpartum depression, we thought he had learned his lesson. Nuh-uh. When he lit into Lauer, we were amazed. Those beautiful eyes of his can look very dangerous when he's on a rant.

Ferguson put it well. He noted how when he went into rehab 13 years ago for addiction to pills and alcohol, there were people who said rehab is a crutch, as Cruise was asserting about meds and psychiatry. But as Ferguson noted, if you only have one leg, you need a crutch. He added that celebrities really should stop giving advice about things they know nothing about.

Cruise does damage with these statements. It's one thing to listen to Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie ask for donations for Africa and the world's starving children. But Cruise could inadvertently cost someone his or her life. And in our humble opinion, a good shrink could help him a lot.

## Bone of contention

Meanwhile, back at that other place where psychiatric intervention is sorely needed, we really liked seeing Kennedy light into Rumsfeld over Iraq on CNN and elsewhere. Like a dog with a bone, Kennedy kept gnawing away at

Rumsfeld, finally noting that the mistakes all happened on Rumsfeld's watch (the Downing Street Memo info on down to the escalating body counts) and suggesting in that intense Boston growl, "Isn't it time you resigned?"

Camera pans to Rumsfeld, who rejoins a little too jocularly that he offered to resign several times, and Bush wouldn't have it.

As we say, sometimes we love TV, sometimes we hate it. Without it, we wouldn't get to see this stuff. But if we didn't see exchanges like the Kennedy-Rumsfeld match, our blood pressure would be a darn sight lower.

We had expected the episode of *Nightline* with George Clooney and Rev. Pat Robertson of the Christian Broadcast Network to send us toward a stroke, but for those of you who were out playing last Friday night instead of getting a fix of news, it was astounding.

We pretty much despise Robertson due to his anti-queer stance. But as he was talking on *Nightline*, we remembered that he was the spiritual advisor who requested of George Bush that he rethink invading Iraq.

The topic was Africa. Clooney and Robertson have formed a bipartisan group to raise money for the desperate continent, along with Bob Geldof and the Live 8 concert.

(An aside about Geldof and Live 8: Geldof was interviewed on the tube by BBC reporter Sue Eldicott, reporting for ABC about the lack of African performers on the Live 8 ticket. Geldof responded that he would love to have nothing but African artists, but no one would pay to broadcast the concert with those performers. He posed the question to Eldicott: "Would ABC pay to broadcast a concert in prime time with African performers? Would they?" No response. *Point taken.*)

George Stephanopoulos queried Robertson about Africa, noting that the biggest aid obstacle at the upcoming G8 conference would be George Bush. Robertson noted that Britain has been a staunch ally of Bush on Iraq, and that it was time Tony Blair "called in his chits, if I may say that," to get Bush to respond

with pledges of more aid to Africa.

Stephanopoulos commented that a huge part of the economic problem in Africa is AIDS, adding that he knew Robertson advocating abstinence, but what about condom use? Robertson said "human nature" couldn't be denied, and stated unequivocally that condoms and responsible use of them were essential in the fight against AIDS.

He went on to say that if the federal budget is \$2.3 trillion, and if the US has already spent \$400 billion on Iraq, then certainly 1% of the budget could go to Africa relief. Robertson also commented on the divisiveness in Washington, mentioning the Senate specifically, and suggested that people needed to get together and close ranks over important issues like Africa relief.

So where was the conservative spin? There wasn't any. It was all let's-save-lives-together.

We think this is what's meant by being a uniter, not a divider. While we haven't moved into the Robertson camp, we were certainly impressed by his responses, particularly his apparent ability to change his mind (on condoms) when it's the right thing to do.

Alas, this is not the case with the majority of conservatives. Vice President Dick Cheney, not the least embarrassed over repeat showings of video of his lunatic assertions in a TV interview that the insurgency in Iraq is in its "death throes" (made more crazy by being juxtaposed with Pentagon officials saying the opposite), issued another insane statement June 25. (Does he seek out the tube for these statements so he can be upbraided by them later? Is it some weird form of political masochism? Or, like so many other members of the Bush cabal, is he simply too arrogant to care?)

When queried about the furor over Guantanamo, Cheney asserted that prisoners held by the US there were "living in the tropics" and had been "given everything they could possibly want" (like

their own pissed-on copy of the Koran). Cheney was responding to evidence that military doctors have helped interrogators by advising them how to increase stress levels and exploit the fears of the detainees.

Yessirree, it is just all fun, all the time at Guantanamo. If Cheney thinks the detainees there are "living in the tropics," perhaps Cheney is living in a dream world. We can't wait for that video to come back to bite him on the ass. Hard.

## Brogue gallery

As we've noted before, this is a pure reality summer; there's nothing but reality shows debuting right and left on the tube. In the tradition of *TV Guide* noting the best TV show you're not watching, let's return to Craig Ferguson. We tend not to watch CBS much, since we are under 80 and not Republican. (Sorry, *60 Minutes* and *Without a Trace*, but the rest of the lineup is pure elderly Red State viewing.) That said, we have fallen deeply, irrevocably in love with *The Late Late Show*, which comes on after Letterman's *The Late Show*.

Ferguson, Scottish film actor, musician and comedian (*The Drew Carey Show*), is blissfully fresh and almost unbearably funny. Like Dudley Moore and Peter Cooke with some *Kids in the Hall* tossed in, Ferguson — tall, good-looking and with a really thick brogue — is utterly captivating. His guests are all over the map: big stars; writers like Nick Hornby and Melissa Banks; and good, often no-name bands he just likes. The show is fabulous. If you go to bed early, tape it, you'll be hooked.

Finally, a memorial to Shana Alexander (*60 Minutes*), who died of cancer on June 24. Alexander was the first female staff writer at *Life* magazine, among her other female firsts in media. But her "Point/Counterpoint" stand-off with James Kilpatrick was fodder for the *Saturday Night Live* spoof with Jane Curtin and Dan Ackroyd ("Jane, you ignorant slut.") Alexander was a primo TV journalist. In these days of declining journalism, she will be missed. Stay tuned. ▼



Lavender Tube

## Christian Bale

◀ previous page

ful of other films. It was in 2000, though, when moviegoers realized that Bale was an acting genius. He was cast as the lead in *American Psycho*, lost the part to Leonardo DiCaprio, then got it back, just before shooting commenced.

"The same thing almost happened with *Batman*," reveals Bale, whose stepmother is Gloria Steinem. "[Director] Chris [Nolan] wanted me, lobbied for me, but the studio didn't want me. If it were not for his persistence, pretty much demanding that I get the role, I doubt I would have gotten it. I feel privileged, after having made the movie, seeing how spectacular it is in every sense of the word, that he fought so hard for me."

If you're a movie aficionado, you will have heard of *The Machinist*, the movie Bale starred in last year, a role for which he was required to lose 65 lbs.

Dropping more than 1/3 of his body weight was not an easy task for Bale. He limited himself while losing the weight and filming *The Machinist* to eating not much more than nonfat lattes, apples

and celery.

But it was gaining the 65 lbs. back for *Batman*, plus an extra 20 lbs. of muscle which he needed for the scenes in which he bares a lot, that he thinks was more dangerous.

Bale dons the Batsuit, which fits his sculpted body tighter than the famous glove fit O.J. Simpson. "I was forced," he says, laughing, "to be fitted for the outfit. A full-body cast was taken of me. They tell me that a lot of time went into finding just the right recipe for the mixture that would make the final Batsuit. It needed to be flexible, light, yet durable. Once it was finished and I was wearing it on the set during filming, it wasn't as easy to wear as I thought. It gave me quite a few headaches. It was painful at times. But I used the pain I endured as fuel for my character's anger."

The Batmobile, too, makes an appearance in the new film, actually five different models, all drivable, built with the ability to go more than 100 mph, and fly for more than 60 feet, three to four feet off the ground.

Next up for Bale is a lead role in Terrence Malick's upcoming film *The New World*, based on the lives of John Smith and Pocahontas. ▼

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DVD

# Vicarious vulgarity

by David Nahmod

*Midnight Blue - The Deep Throat Special Edition* (Blue Underground DVD)

From 1975-2003, Al Goldstein's *Midnight Blue* was the most popular and controversial cable access show in New York City. Goldstein is infamous as the writer/publisher of *Screw* magazine, without question the most vulgar publication in history.

In a weekly magazine that reviewed porn films and their stars (and didn't exclude gay porn, though straight porn was their main focus), Goldstein went out of his way to be as outrageously vile as possible. Never before (and not since) was sex talked about in such graphic terms. Using the "dirtiest" language possible, Goldstein delighted in shocking his readers and thumbing his nose at would-be "moralists."

*Midnight Blue* was a video version of *Screw*. A former New Yorker, I watched it "religiously." A

highly addictive show, its Thursday Midnight time-slot was said to pull in more viewers than more mainstream talk shows like stalwart Johnny Carson, at least in Manhattan. Sex has always been a highly marketable commodity!

It was great fun to watch *Midnight Blue*. The viewer always came away from the show short of breath from laughing so much. It was kind of like reading dirty graffiti on public restroom walls, vulgar beyond words. You never knew what outrageous stunt Goldstein and company would pull next.

The portly, bearded and very unattractive Goldstein delighted in delivering long monologues directed towards the censors at Manhattan Cable. "Suck my big dick, you cocksuckers," he would say, while chomping on a cigar. "This is America, and you can kiss my fat, smelly ass!" Goldstein's comic genius was that he could go on like this for up to 15 minutes at a time, with a perfectly straight face!

*Screw* magazine and *Midnight Blue* folded in 2003, but now the rest of the country can see what

lucky Manhattanites enjoyed for so long. *Blue Underground* DVD, purveyors of cult entertainment, have released the first in what promises to be a lengthy *Best of Midnight Blue* collection.

## Shlub standard

*Midnight Blue: The Deep Throat Special Edition* focuses on the famed 1972 porn film that launched the Golden Age of Porn. Culled from various episodes, the disc is every bit as vulgar and childish as the TV show I recall with such great fondness. It's silly, vulgar fun. There are interviews with *Deep Throat*'s leading man, Harry Reems. "So you actually expect people to get excited watching a shlub like you fuck?" Goldstein asks. Says Reems: "I dunno. Depends on their tastes!"

Reems and porn star manager Chuck Traynor (former husband of Linda Lovelace) offer their take on Lovelace's claim that she made the film at gunpoint. Not true, they say. *Throat* director Gerard Damiano, who went on to make dark, Gothic porn films like *The Devil in Miss Jones*, reveals himself to be the



most pretentious filmmaker in history. Damiano considers himself to be the Ingmar Bergman of porn, a serious filmmaker! If only he had Bergman's talent.

British sex guru Dr. Tuppy Owens talks about the joys of giving head. *Midnight Blue*'s sex therapist Jackie Park advises men to use Wesson oil to lubricate their dicks before getting head!

When Goldstein interviews '70s porn star Carol Connors, who had a small role in *Deep Throat*, he good-naturedly asks: "Do you prefer being eaten out by a man or a woman?"

One gets the impression that *Midnight Blue* was nothing but a

big inside joke — that Goldstein was laughing along with his audience. It's hard to believe that the show's over-the-top nature was meant to be taken seriously. Reportedly a serious, cultured man off-screen who attended theatre and the opera regularly, and who was a voracious reader of newsweekly publications, Goldstein seems to be playing a character on *Midnight Blue*, and having a ball. His onscreen persona is just a big kid who likes to "get laid," and can get away with saying all the dirty things we all wanted to say when we were kids. *Midnight Blue* is vile, vulgar, and great fun. Shame on me! ▼

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## Logo channel

Arts cover

Wednesday lineup pulling in viewers. The concept for Logo was born. In the works for several years, the channel was originally due to launch this past February. But the network faced fierce competition for channel space from other networks — and homophobia. In February, Logo would have launched in only three million homes. One unnamed executive at a cable company stated she would resign if Logo were launched in her viewing area!

But Showtime persisted, and on June 30, the channel begins airing in 10 million digital homes. They will grow from there, as Logo is now in negotiations with Comcast here in San Francisco and may yet reach an agreement with our local provider by launch date. Also in the works are future carriage by satellite providers Dish Network and Direct TV. Logo plans on being big.

What can viewers expect? Exactly what you might see on CBS: movies, specials, soaps, news, but with a queer slant. CBS has already agreed to team with Logo to produce a news show. Logo also teams with TV Land to produce *Ticked Pink*, a documentary on gay characters in sitcoms, as well as sitcoms with gay appeal.

There will be reruns of *Queer as Folk*, *The L Word*, movies galore, and original series. A look at the original series that have been greenlit shows Logo's commitment to diversity.



Original series *Surfer Girls* has the potential to be a lesbian *Baywatch*.

Popular gay comedian Scott Thompson hosts *My Fabulous Gay Wedding*, a topical reality series about queer couples preparing for and going through with tying the knot.

*Surfer Girls* promises to be a lesbian *Baywatch*, as Aussie dykes, doctors, lawyers, and high-powered real-estate agents pursue their true love: the waves!

*Noah's Arc* is billed as a drama series about Noah, a black gay screenwriter in Los Angeles, and

his circle of friends, navigating their lives through Tinseltown.

For the first time, transgenders are included as Logo presents, with the participation of Jane Fonda, a documentary on a trans production of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*. There will also be a number of *Biography*-style documentaries on the lives of prominent LGBT people.

In July, Logo will broadcast another round of the GLAAD Media Awards. The ambitious channel

promises much, and it has the deep pockets of Viacom behind it. They have the resources to deliver the goods. If this initial lineup is any indication, Logo aims to be around for many years to come. ▼

Check your cable listings for Logo channel information.

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## Me and You

page 28

adults, are doing their own walk on wild side: two teenage girls "harass" a cute male classmate to the point of orgasm; a six-year-old boy gets involved in a very adult Internet chat room with hilarious results; a 10-year-old girl shares her dreams and her hope chest with a nice boy. Christine and Richard make their own crazy kind of progress, two steps forward and a pratfall back. *Me and You* will remind astute indie fans of the wonderfully bizarre uni-

verse of Eric Mendelson's *Judy Berlin*, where Edie Falco played a Christine-like character. But comparisons fail when you're dealing with stupendous creativity. This film, suffused with a queer sensibility though minus any overt homosexuality, manages to master that special territory of the novel, getting inside the heads of more than half-a-dozen characters without intrusive narration. In one odd subplot that isn't given a cute screen resolution, Andrew (Brad Henke), a colleague of Richard's in the shoe department, places some provocative notes in his windows, meant to be read by

two bold teenage girls.

"When I'm writing the character who put the perverse signs in the window, I'm totally that guy. You wouldn't know it, but in some ways, this movie is the weird sign in the windows: 'I know this is weird, but be my friend!' It's a risk, and at the same time I may just jump down on the floor if anyone actually comes. I guess that's the way to give the audience some intimacy with the characters, not to take some kind of third-person approach to them, no matter how strange their behavior may seem. I never thought of any of them as strange." *Opens Friday.* ▼



# Approaching divinity

Goerne, Brendel and others perform late Schubert on disc

by Tim Pfaff

An old boyfriend used to say that by the time you get to late Mozart, you're getting close to the godhead. The same holds true for late Schubert — for whom "late" was also young — and two new CDs of some of the gay composer's last music show him at his most divine.

Baritone Matthias Goerne's live performance of *Schwanengesang* with pianist Alfred Brendel — like the duo's incomparable *Winterreise* from London's Wigmore Hall in November 2003 — paired with one of the best-ever performances of Beethoven's *An die ferne Geliebte* cycle, Op. 98 (Decca) is a must no matter how many recordings of those songs you already have. Although it is glaringly uneven in quality, the set of Schubert works for piano four-hands by Maria João Pires and Ricardo Castro, with a solo sonata each, the A Major, D 664, from Pires and the A minor, D 784, from Castro (DG), becomes a must-have because of some major rarities.

Perhaps because they were not composed as a cycle, the songs of *Schwanengesang* (literally, *Swan Song*) can be hard to take. Bald emotions, almost entirely on the dark side, combined with compositional structures so advanced that they burrow into your psyche without calling particular attention to themselves, conspire to make a body of music that challenges as much as the two great cycles without their consolations, if cold, of narrative.

As good as an example as any is "Ständchen," a Serenade that opens on a deceptively jaunty note that, in less than four minutes, is drenched in undiluted sadness. It's one of the great moments in this remarkable recital. As in their *Winterreise*, these two musicians work in such simpati-



co that the slightest gesture from one is matched with an ideal response from the other. The same fusion of artistic sensibilities ushers the late song "Herbst" through its exhorting arc.

With no loss of expressive range, Goerne works with a smaller vocal palette than he brought out for *Winterreise*. Still, few other singers of any age have fused note to word with his imagination, and fewer yet have dared his departures from what counts as beautiful singing in the standard sense. There's more pitched speech here than most singers would try to get away with, but it's

all dead-on, and the innumerable ways Goerne "places" his voice without its once veering off a rock-solid center somewhere deep in his being are a constant wonder.

Brendel is more the second singer at the old box of wood than he is accompanist, which is a demeaning way to describe the deftness with which he partners Goerne. Still, his vast experience with the sonatas of both Schubert and Beethoven yields up its own rewards in terms of searching musicianship. The "wandering" that is a motive theme in the mature Schubert songs finds no expression more literally forbidding than in "In der Ferne," which here is enough to stop you in your psychological tracks at least.

Their performance of the Beethoven, without the slightest pause between songs, is as great an achievement. Goerne handles the impossible middle verse of the second song on a single note, as if it were bird song (by a scary bird), and the pair's elasticity with the rhythms of the following "Leichte

Segler" is little short of miraculous. This wondrous cycle seems to draw exemplary performances from all who attempt it. This one might return it to its proper place in the active repertoire.

## Noise alert

Once past the unaccountably bad performance of the F-minor Fantasy for Piano Four Hands, now regarded as one of Schubert's finest works for the keyboard, Pires and Castro do some important work. But, because the work is what it is, and begins the two-CD set, it's a grave miscalculation. Some of its more delicate passages have the requisite lift, but its far trickier stentorian moments approach sheer noise.

Evidence was that Castro was the problem, and his solo contribution, the A-minor Sonata, with its dramatic, rhetorical shifts from loud to soft in the first movement, should have given him away. While the performances you want are still Richter's, Uchida's, and Till Fellner's, Castro acquires himself well



enough.

Gratefully, the duo compensates for the F-minor phantasmagoria with involving, idiomatic, revealing accounts of two other little-known late works for piano four-hands, the A-minor Rondo, D 951 and the Allegro, "Lebensstürme," D 947, which bring the CD to a close as satisfying as its opening is not.

Pires' performance of the solo A Major Sonata, D 664, is finely wrought and a vivid reminder of what a fine musician she can be. There must be a reason she gets lost in the shuffle, but playing this refined isn't it. ▼

# Mahler, weighty and windy

Rattle, Nagano take on the 8th; and the results vary

by Tim Pfaff

It's not its size or scale that set Mahler's Eighth Symphony apart from the rest of his symphonic works. More than its gigantism — the augmented orchestra, eight vocal soloists, three choruses and organ — the work's faith, defiant transcendence, and even at times optimism are at conspicuous odds with the pain, loss, and despair that make his

other symphonies so tirelessly attractive to people living in hard times. In short, it's harder to pull off spiritually than technically.

As for the technical part, it's difficult enough that, for reasons that go far beyond how to mike the monster, it's not fared particularly well in recording. It's eluded some of the greatest of living Mahlerians (I'm thinking of Abbado, who, one hopes, will get another go at it). Until the new live recording with Simon Rattle conducting his old City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (EMI), I would have said, get the Solti (one bargain Decca CD) or wait for MTT's (with fingers crossed). Rattle now holds the Grail, with Kent Nagano's rival new version leading his Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (Harmonia Mundi) joining the other sunken Titans.

Mahler may be alone in considering the Eighth his greatest work. I've never heard anyone else give it first place — except after a great performance of it, which pretty well wipes your memory clean of all other music. Rattle's is such a performance. The added joy is to hear him back in such good form with Mahler. I've not been a particular fan of his Mahler with the Berlin Philharmonic (yes, including that Tenth everyone else thought was the Rapture). This, with the Birmingham Orchestra he turned into one of the world's first-rate ensembles, is as good as any of his earlier Mahler — as good as his tip-top Second, which shares with the Eighth gigantic forces and, of course, a magnificent chorus.

Especially in the dense, colossal First Part, on the ancient hymn Mahler made newly primal, "Veni, creator spiritus," Rattle constantly reminds us not how inflated and overwhelming this masterfully composed music is, but how intimate and exquisitely detailed.



The four choruses (the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus and Youth Chorus, London Symphony Chorus, and the Toronto Children's Chorus) and the well-matched soloists — Christine Brewer, Soile Isokowski, Juliane Banse, Birgit Remmert, Jane Henschel, Jon Villars, David Wilson-Johnson and SF Opera "graduate" John Relyea — declaim the Latin hymn as though their lives depend on it, and not a word goes by without the proper weight and inflection.

But the miracles come in the crisp, clean instrumental details that usually get lost in all the clamor. There seems to be a never-ending stream of them, and they don't so much punctuate the performance as buoy it.

In Part Two, Mahler's dramatic setting of the final scene of Goethe's *Faust*, Rattle's surest instincts — for the theater — come to the fore. The pacing is flawless, the balance of solo and choral locutions deft, and again, the interweaving of it all in the seamless web of the orchestral fabric is the guarantor of the dramatic ebb and flow.

None of which would even matter if he and his musical masses did not give themselves fully to the extraordinary, ultimately mystical musical Mahler writes for them. There's nothing merely artistic about this episode, it's a second hymn, to the unknowability of all that matters.

Mahler prepares the great fi-

nale (*Chorus mysticus*, and Mahler means that) "All transitory things are but a parable" from nearly the first notes of the section, but Rattle traces its trajectory with the surest talent to have waved over the timeless hour in my long and luckily rich experience of the work live (this performance is live, from June 2004). If you're not gooseflesh from the choruses' first, hushed entry with "Alles Vergänglich ist nur ein Gleichnis" to those same words in climactic full cry, there's something wrong with the performance, or you. Rattle lets rip with the ecstasy.



## Rip tide

Nagano, regrettably, just lets rip. Overlooking the fact that his forces are not the equal of Rattle's in any part, he gives little indication of being in control of this challenging score. The opening organ chord announces how generally distended the subsequent performance is to be, and its overstriving never stops thereafter. There's something almost sadly desperate about it all.

Nothing ever feels right, let alone inevitable, about Nagano's tempos, and the sound is mostly a blur. It's not even superficially impressive. As Nagano is, as I write, apparently and credibly so, showing with his Verdi *Falstaffs* in LA, he, too, is a man of the theater. Here, instead of breaking a leg, he pulls Mahler's. ▼

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## BOOKS

# How the closet kills its inhabitants

## Tennessee Williams' struggle to reveal and conceal gayness

by Tavo Amador

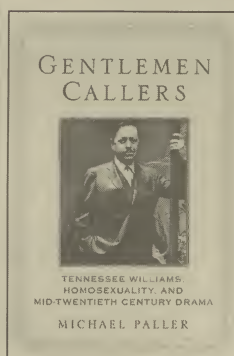
At the time of his death, playwright Tennessee Williams (1911-82) had gone for two decades without a critical or commercial success. In the '60s and '70s, his new plays were dismissed by homophobic critics and by many openly gay writers who claimed they portrayed a heterosexual and therefore negative view of homosexuality. These same gay critics also attacked Williams' classic dramas because they didn't portray openly gay characters. Ironically, many straight critics during Williams' glory days ('45-'61) frequently ripped him for creating women who were really transvestites. In the beautifully written and cogently argued *Gentlemen Callers: Tennessee Williams, Homosexuality, and Mid-Twentieth Century Drama* (Palgrave, \$26.95), Michael Paller proves both gay and straight critics wrong.

Paller's thesis is that Williams' finest plays benefit from a tension between his desire to reveal and conceal homosexuality. Williams himself was openly gay — everyone in the theatrical world that lionized him knew his sexual orientation. He never married, and didn't hide his longtime lover Frank Merlo (d. '61) or his later dependency on young gay males for companionship and sex. Paller places Williams' candor in the context of the most virulently homophobic era in American history — when homosexuality was considered a mental illness; when gay bars were raided by the police

in major cities, and the names of patrons made public, often resulting in professional ruin and social disgrace; when President Dwight Eisenhower signed an executive order authorizing firing gay and lesbian government workers; and when homosexuality was believed allied to communism. He recognizes, as Williams' gay critics didn't, how much courage it took to live as honestly as he did.

Williams' mother had a puritanical hatred of sex. His father enjoyed it — and perhaps was guilty of conjugal rape. These opposing positions left Williams conflicted about sex — not just gay sex, but all sex. Homosexuality is a ribbon running through many of Williams' plays. Paller cites clues in *The Glass Menagerie* ('45), for example, in which the narrator, Tom, reveals his homosexuality — clues that gay men of the era undoubtedly caught. He discusses Brick in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* ('55), asking if he is gay. Williams was evasive, answering differently at different times. But what is clear is that Brick is haunted by homophobia, whether internalized or not, because it made him abandon his dearest friend, Skipper, resulting in his suicide. Yet Williams gives Brick's wife Maggie a stunning speech in which she describes his relationship with Skipper as "one of those beautiful, ideal things they tell you about in Greek legends. ... I think it was noble!" Brick's father, Big Daddy, evidences a worldly acceptance of homoerotic male relationships.

In the unsuccessful *Camino Real* ('53), Williams had presented Broadway's first openly gay



character, the Baron Charlus (from gay novelist Marcel Proust's *Recherche aux Temps Perdu*). In *Camino*, Charlus is compassionate and kind and no more unhappy or tragic than others in this surreal drama, among them Marguerite Gautier (from Alexandre Dumas' *La Dame aux Camellias*) and the American soldier Kilroy.

### Stoned again

Paller also realizes that Williams was a commercial playwright, seeking the widest audience for his work. Yet he remained a true artist. At his best, he had the rare ability to show the universality of specific human conditions and tragedies. Williams was devastated by Merlo's death, and that grief triggered his "Stoned Age," a

period of heavy drinking and intensive use of prescribed medication: uppers, downers, painkillers. It also coincided with changes in the theatre: the advent of Off Broadway and Off Off Broadway, and the beginnings of gay liberation. Although Williams continued writing, during his "Stoned Age" he couldn't achieve the dramatic tension and structure of his finest earlier works. These later plays often put unhappy homosexual characters front and center, but their sadness and loneliness were matched by the straight characters.

Paller is right about the conflict, in Williams' masterpieces, between hiding and revealing secrets. His assessments of *Menagerie*, *Camino*, *Cat*, *Suddenly Last Summer* ('58) and of less familiar early and later works are exceptionally insightful. For reasons of space, he doesn't spend much time on *A Streetcar Named Desire* ('47), which is regrettable.

What Williams' gay critics missed, and Paller doesn't mention, is that in his masterpieces, written when most gays and lesbians were closeted, Williams showed how destructive the closet was, not just for those inside it, but for everyone. Thus, Tom's concealment of his sexuality from Amanda and Laura underscores the conflict in *Menagerie* and forces him to abandon his family, to his regret and theirs. In *Streetcar*, Allan Grey's hiding his sexuality led him

to marry Blanche, and her shocked discovery of the truth drove him to suicide, resulting in her desperate escape to New Orleans and tragic clash with Stanley. In *Cat*, Brick's wanting to keep the dead Skipper in the closet has turned him into a guilty, bitter alcoholic, and forced Maggie to become a driven, grasping feline. In *Summer*, Sebastian's failure to confront his mother Violet about his sexual orientation, and her refusal to acknowledge it, contribute to his death and her madness.

Williams feared loneliness more than anything else. He had a lifelong terror of being alone at night. He often used sex as a substitute for companionship. This is true of his characters as well: Blanche, Stella, Tom, Sebastian, Miss Alma in *Summer and Smoke* ('48), and Alexandra del Lago in *Sweet Bird of Youth* ('59) all seek refuge in warm, young bodies. But Williams understood that sex was not enough. He didn't judge it. He didn't suggest that heterosexual sex was better than homosexual sex. He recognized that sex was essential and could be joyous, but he, like his characters, wanted love as well. If they (and he) didn't find it, or didn't find it for long, it was because of their human failings, failings that transcend sexual orientation and aren't linked to it. It's his luminous, compassionate presentation of lost individuals in dramatic settings that have made his best works great and timeless art. ▼

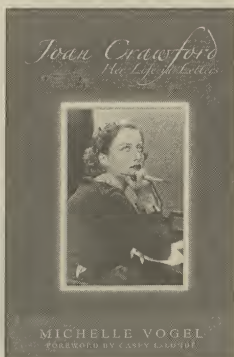
## Pen pal par excellence

### Letters reveal another side of Miss Joan Crawford

by Tavo Amador

Joan Crawford (1904-77) had one of the most remarkable careers in movie history. Perhaps born illegitimate, her Texas childhood was Dickensian and may have included sexual and physical abuse. She was a "working student" at a private girls school, cleaning floors, making beds, and performing other back-breaking tasks for 30 girls. Realizing she was unprepared, she dropped out of Stephens College. Instead, she focused on dancing.

Plucked by an MGM scout from a Broadway chorus line, she arrived in Hollywood in '25. A fan magazine contest resulted in Lucille LeSueur becoming "Joan Crawford." By '28, she was a star. She handled the transition to talkies smoothly, and became the epitome of Hollywood glamour for two generations, her clothes and make-up copied by countless women. Her first marriage was to the handsome, urbane Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., scion of Hollywood royalty. Her second was to cultured leading man Franchot Tone, heir to a New York



mining fortune. Her third was to minor actor Philip Terry, but her fourth and last was to Alfred Steele, CEO of Pepsi Cola. She was 51 at the time, and would be widowed four years later. Like many of her era, she was promiscuous. She had affairs with Clark Gable, John Garfield, Kirk Douglas, and Yul Brynner, among others.

As an actress, her range was limited, but properly cast, she

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# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare by Mark Mardon



Infinite Soul DJ Jamez spun for the Pagans at Faery Village.

## Lofty & nasty

San Francisco's Pride Celebration 2005 ran the gamut from Christian to Pagan, not so much formally as in spirit. The Christian part came Friday night in the majestic, essentially secular Pride Concert at Grace Cathedral atop Nob Hill. There amidst the towering stained-glass windows with their glowing Christian imagery our love was elevated to a high state of grace through stirring music. Some of our tribe's greatest voices and instrumentalists did the old Gothic cathedral proud. What deeply impressed me was the beautiful decorum and powerful sense of spiritual community, all orchestrated by gifted, charismatic women conductors, with music and lyrics and text/spoken-word created primarily by women, about women's issues, in particular breast cancer. In this endeavor the many men involved gladly participated, in no small part, I suspect, to return the favor of all the toils and devotion women showed to men at the height of the AIDS crisis. Now it's the women's turn to receive a helping hand. Front and center in the altar space were the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, led by Dr. Kathleen McGuire; the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of S.F., led by McGuire's wife, Artistic Director Stephanie Smith; the Freedom Band with Artistic Director Jadine Louie at the helm, and Vancouver's hugely talented GLASS Youth Choir, with Carol Sirianni, Artistic Director. Women's Music pioneer Cris Williamson took a turn at the piano, lending the event her earthy vocals and folksy manner.

The first portion of the concert was dubbed *Sing for the Cure*®, with The Rev. Penny Nixon of MCC-SF taking to the cathedral's pulpit to deliver the somber spoken-word portion of the night, as Louie led the band and choruses in underscoring the breast-cancer narrative. The cathedral's deep echoing quality heightened the power of the melodies, even as it swallowed the chorus's words. The second half of the program rang out more clearly.

On Saturday night of Pride Weekend — when a hundred other events were happening — folk-rocker Mark Weigle drew a loyal following for his concert at Noe Valley Ministry, where the Christian imagery was less intrusive and glimmers of Pagan spirit shined through. Front and center in the audience was gray-haired Radical Faery elder John Burnside, swishing his wrist in time to the music, accompanied as always by Jerry the Faery. Weigle surprised and delighted Burnside with a bouquet and an inscribed CD of a new song about Burnside's ex, Harry Hay. Weigle did the Pagans proud.

By the time I got to Pink Saturday in the Castro, the place was jam-packed with Bacchic revelers, in full-on Pagan mode. Immediately my claustrophobia kicked in, so I didn't linger, but on the way through the chaos and cacophony (and masses of straight gawkers) I caught DJ Keshav Jiwnani hanging out at the trance site, which was packed with joyous techno-tribal revelers. KJ is still king/queen of the genre, and as such he was surrounded by a court of psy-trance heads, all looking quite gorgeous in their Pagan way.

Sunday was the big Pride Celebration and Parade, and as usual I made my way to Faery Village, where the great DJ Jamez on turntables took the place of the Garrin Benfield band (much missed this year) to create magical sounds and ambience, and all the faeries were having a terrific romp in their flowery/fluffy Pagan drag. No Christian icons were anywhere to be seen. Nonetheless great people and good friends showed up — but what was with that over-tanned naked dude slathering lube on his huge rod and giving the tourists a show right at the entrance to the village? Had he just come from the Viagra float? Was he channeling Tom of Finland? Maybe he was Pan incarnate, Goddess only knows. ▼



Peaches Christ shares the stage with Tura Satana, star of *Faster Pussycat! Kill! Kill!*, in the season opener of "Midnight Mass" at Landmark's Bridge Theatre. See Friday.

## Fri 1

### Faster Pussycat! Kill! Kill! @ 'Midnight Mass,' Bridge Theatre

Landmark's Bridge Theatre kicks off its 8th annual summer midnight movie series "Midnight Mass" with your hostess Peaches Christ introducing an extra-special Russ Meyer tribute featuring *Faster Pussycat! Kill! Kill!* — with the one and only Tura Satana, star of the movie, on stage live (both nights) in a rare interview with Peaches. Autograph signings afterwards. Plus: Peaches' world premiere of her debut single "Idol Worship!" Peaches Christ's alter-ego Joshua Grannell is a Bay Area filmmaker and performance artist. \$10. July 1 & 2 at midnight. Bridge Theatre, 310 Geary Blvd. Info: 415-751-3213; 777-FILM; mofiveline.com

### The Goat Or, Who Is Sylvia @ A.C.T., Geary Theater

Extended through July 17: American Conservatory Theater presents *Edward Albee's* witty, controversial, Tony Award-winning drama *The Goat Or, Who Is Sylvia?* Martin is a middle-aged man at the pinnacle of a successful career as an architect, the youngest recipient of the coveted Pulitzer Prize. He has loving relationships with his wife, Stevie, and their teenage son, Billy. But suddenly Martin makes a shocking confession that changes everything. Directed by Richard E.T. White (Mamet's *American Buffalo*). Now must close July 17. \$15-\$56 Tue.-Thu. & Sun.; \$19-\$68 Fri. & Sat. eves & weekend matinees. Showtimes: 8pm on July 1, 2, 5-9, 12-16; 7pm on July 10; 2pm on July 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17. Geary Theater, 415 Geary St. Tix: 415-749-2228; www.act-sf.org

### Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte @ Lorraine Hansberry Theatre

Make It So Productions presents Matthew Martin and Arturo Galster in *Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte*, directed by Matthew Martin, a side-splitting parody of the original book & cult film *Hush*. *Hush, Sweet Charlotte* (1964) which starred Bette Davis and Olivia DeHavilland. \$27-\$32 (\$5 off students, seniors, groups of 10). 8pm (2pm Sun.). Runs thru July 31. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St. at Mason (Union Square). Tix/info: 415-474-8800; TIX Union Square; ticketweb.com. Info: www.makeitsoproductions.org

### Bunn & Smallwood

#### @ Pan Pacific

Bill Bunn & Shirley Smallwood in Concert at The Pan Pacific. Fri., July 1. Door at 7:30pm; show at 8:30pm. \$15 or \$25 + 2-drink minimum. 500 Post St. at Mason. Tix: Pan Pacific at 415-929-2018; Tin Pan Alley Productions at 415-923-1452. Info: www.tinpanalley.org

### Whoop-Dee-Do! @ NCTC

Runs thru July 10: New Conservatory Theatre Center's Pride Season Ten presents the musical extravaganza *Whoop-Dee-Do!*, di-

rected by Ed Decker, with musical direction by Michael O'Dell and choreography by Tom Segal. Conceived/created by Charles Catanese, Howard Crabtree, Dick Gallagher, Peter Morris and Mark Waldrop. The prequel to *When Pigs Fly*, with a dizzy collage of songs and sketches. \$20 Wed.; \$26 Thu. & Sun.; \$28 Fri.; \$32 Sat. Showtimes 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 2pm Sun. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. near Market. Tix/info: 415-861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

### What's Wrong with Angry? @ NCTC

Runs thru July 10: New Conservatory Theatre Center's Pride Season Ten presents British playwright/screenwriter Patrick Wilde's coming-of-age play *What's Wrong with Angry?* Directed by John Dixon. Wilde explores head-on the social taboos (and in England, the laws against even schoolroom discussion) surrounding teen homosexuality. \$20 Wed.; \$26 Thu. & Sun.; \$28 Fri.; \$32 Sat. 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 2pm Sun. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. near Market. Tix: 415-861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

### Spencer Day's Someday, Love @ NCTC

Closes July 3: NCTC's 2005 "In Concert Series" presents *Spencer Day and The Crimson Club in Someday, Love*. Original music by Spencer Day; book by Day, Rafe Chase & the Crimson Club; directed by Richard "Scrumbley" Koldewyn. *Someday, Love* is a new Noir musical about three lonely barflies imprisoned by their own lives. \$28. 8pm. Series passes available (\$36 preview passes; \$60 Flex Pass; \$70 Opening Night passes; \$50 Pride Season passes).

### Medea: The Musical

#### @ Theatre Rhinoceros

Extended thru July 3: Theatre Rhinoceros closes its 27th Season with writer/director John Fisher's *Medea: The Musical*. A rol-

licking backstage musical of love, lust, adventure and ambition. \$15-\$28. 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 3pm & 7pm Sun. The Rhino, 2926 16th St. (btwn Mission/S. Van Ness). Tix: 415-552-4100 ext 104; www.theRhino.org

## Sat 2

### SF Mime Troupe 'Doing Good' @ Dolores Park

The San Francisco Mime Troupe opens its 2005 season with a brand new play, *Doing Good*, inspired by John Perkins' *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*. This year the Mime Troupe breaks from a clear farcical style to offer a drama that raises questions about the story's main characters and the moral choices that each faces. The action centers on James and Molly, a young couple who meet in 1968 as the TET Offensive in Vietnam fills the TV screen. Loaded with history and a global perspective, *Doing Good* has a backdrop of U.S. foreign policy since World War II. Directed by Victor Toman. Shows in Dolores park this July 2, 3 & 4. Free (donations encouraged). Music at 1:30; show at 2pm. Located at 18th & Dolores. Info: 415-285-1717; www.sfmt.org

### Shawn Ryan

#### @ Rainbow Room, Napa

Fresh from his sell-out performances at San Francisco's legendary Plush Room, jazz recording artist Shawn Ryan will debut in Napa at the Depot's Rainbow Room on Saturday, July 2nd at 9PM. In what is being billed as "Shawn Ryan's Blue Skies," listeners can look forward to an evening of Jazz, Cabaret, and Comedy. The event, in part to celebrate the Release of Shawn's New Album under the LML Label (www.lmlmusic.com) will feature Ryan alongside the Kelly Park Trio. The ensemble regularly thrills audiences in an unforgettable evening of jazz, cabaret, and comedy like no other. No cover charge. Two Drink Minimum (\$10). 806 Fourth Street (at Soscol and Third), Napa. Tix: 707-252-4477; www.thedepot-napa.com

### Wilde Chats & Wilde Nights

"Wilde Chats" and "Wilde Nights." The first-of-its-kind gay men's Socratic discussion group, "Wilde Chats," has grown from meeting twice a month to meeting eight times a month! Come and find out why. Explore core issues that affect gay men in a refreshingly different way. The chats enable and encourage participants to become more autonomous thinkers and doers, and more expert questioners. Come have a cup of coffee, relax, meet your neighbors and have some fun! "Wilde Chats" meets every 1st & 3rd Sat. of the month, 10:30am, at Orbit Room Café, 1900 Market St. (Market and Laguna), and every 2nd & 4th Sat., 10:30am, at Threes Dollar Bill Café, in the LGBT Center at 1800 Market St. "Wilde Nights," the nighttime version of "Wilde Chats," meets every Sat. night, 9pm, at Muddy Waters Coffee House, on Church St. near Market St.

### Thrive @ The Center

"Thrive," coffee with plenty of open, strong, wonderful HIV+ people to hang out with. \$1 donation cups of coffee and occasional homebaked goodies with all proceeds going to the Center. Sat, July 2, 1-3pm (1st & 3rd Saturdays). SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St.

### Brothas!

#### @ Sweet Inspiration

"Brothas!" An on-going think tank for Black Gay Men/Same Gender-Loving Men. A time to come together to rap about issues. What makes it hard for two Black men to interact with one another? Have Black men succumbed to the pressure of society? Is there a Black Gay/Same Gender-Loving Men community? Come and engage in an insightful discussion. Sat, July 2, 3-4:15pm (Brothas! meets the 1st & 3rd Sat. of the month). Sweet Inspiration, 2239 Market St.

### Modern Love @ El Rio

"Modern Love: A Modern Times Benefit," summertime goodness in El Rio's outdoor garden, hosted by Michelle Tea and Tara Jepson, featuring readings by Charlie Ana-



The San Francisco Mime Troupe gets serious in "Doing Good," opening the season at Dolores Park. See Saturday.





Join the opening reception for Jim Bobick's "Flowers" at the Castro Country Club. See Monday.

ders, Amanda Davidson, Jewelle Gomez, Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz, Ian Phillips, Seelye Quest, Camille Roy, Pam Rosenthal/Molly Weatherfield, and Jocelyn Saidenberg. Music by Paper Boats, Butch vs. Femme, and Oh Dark Thirty. Screening of Laurie Kohl's short queer narrative film. \$7-\$12 sliding, 2-8pm. 318 Mission St. (at Cesar Chavez).

### Alameda Point Antiques Faire

The Alameda Point Antiques & Collectibles Faire, held waterside the first Sun. of every month in beautiful Alameda. Featuring more than 800 outdoor booths of antiques & collectibles with breathtaking view of the SF skyline. Enjoy an amazing collection of food & drink. Unlimited free parking & shuttle. Vendor Set Up (\$15 adults): 6-7:30am. Early Admission (\$10 adults): 7:30-9am. Gen'l Admission (\$5 adults): 9am-9pm.

## Sun 3

### San Francisco Symphony @ Stern Grove Festival

A Stern Grove Festival tradition and an annual favorite, the San Francisco Symphony performs with SFS Resident Conductor Edwin Outwater. Under the leadership of Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas, the Grammy-winning SF Symphony has built a reputation as one of the finest and most innovative orchestras in the world. The afternoon's program features Shostakovich's Festive Overture; Saint-Saëns' Piano Concerto No. 2 (with pianist Adam Neiman); and Dvorák's Symphony No. 9 (New World). Free. 2pm. 19th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

### OUCH @ The Eagle

A benefit for OUCH — Organizing Up Communities against Hepatitis & The Center For Sex & Culture. MCs Manley Lennox, Sister Roma, & Sister Kitty Catalyst. Special Guest: Dr. Carol Queen. If you are a man who has sex with men you should get the Hep A & B vaccinations. Several queer men's health and harm reduction groups are launching OUCH to build awareness about Hep A & B vaccinations and to offer free vaccinations at many of the queer street fairs and events: "We have very cute doctors who will do the shots and hunky orderlies and other helpers who will help do our brief intake process." \$10 beer/beverage bust includes dinner. Sunday July 3rd, 3-6pm at the Eagle Tavern, 12th & Harrison. Info: www.SFEagle.com

### K'vetsh

#### @ Sadie's Flying Elephant

"K'vetsh," a queer spoken word event. Hosted by Lynn Breedlove and Tara Jessen. Open mic sign-up at 7:30, one piece of 5 minutes or less. \$1-\$3 donation. Sun., July 3 (first Sun. of every month), 7:30pm sign-up, show 8pm. Sadie's Flying Elephant bar, 491 Potrero (corner of Mariposa).

### matinée @ mezzanine

Super Heroes DJ Barry Harris, DJ Luke Johnstone, and hell-a-fierce Flava headline "matinée," an Independence Day Party and SF's newest tea-dance sensation. Upstairs, ghettopo maestro DJ Hawthorne spins funky vibes. Huge flagger stage! \$10 (2-for-1 entry before 7pm. Extended hours: 5pm-2am. 444 Jessie St. (entrance on Stevenson btwn 5th & 6th streets).

### Pan Dulce @ The Café

Club Papi Productions presents "Pan Dulce" with DJ Carlitos spinning Spanish, Hip Hop, Reggaeton. Official Thalia CD release party. Free CD + poster giveaways. Sexy Latin go-gos, drink specials, compli-

mentary appetizers. \$5 cover. 9pm-2am. 21+ w/d. 2369 Market St. Info: www.club-papi.com

### Kandy

#### @ Bench & Bar, Oakland

"Kandy," the Bay Area's biggest lesbian holiday weekend party. Official Vivian Green CD release party. DJs Luna & Chili D. Go-gos & appetizers. \$10 cover. 9pm-2am. 21+ w/d. 2111 Franklin St., Oakland. Info: 408-792-3466; www.creams.com

## Mon 4

### We Are Family Picnic @ Yerba Buena Gardens

For the ninth year in a row, Yerba Buena Gardens proudly hosts the annual 4th of July "We Are Family Picnic" with loads of wild, wacky, fun entertainment for LGBT individuals, families and friends to celebrate Independence Day and each other. Co-sponsors include COLAGE, Camp Lavender Hill, Yerba Buena Bowling and Ice Skating Center, and Zeum. Featuring the Dixieland Dykes+3 (comprised of players from the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band and City Swing); Derique the Fabulous Clown (known for his unique blend of Hambone body percussion, circus skills, and high-tech electronic body drum suit called Ham-Tech); The Foghorns (members of the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band); multi-instrumentalist Jackie Jones and her Tap Dancing Cat (a children's favorite), prizes and more. Part of the 2005 Yerba Buena Gardens Festival (May-October), organized by Artistic Director Linda Lucero. Free. 11am-4pm. Yerba Buena Gardens Rooftop, located at Howard St. & 4th St. Info: 415-543-1718; www.ybgf.org

### Jim Bobick's 'Flowers'

#### @ Castro Country Club

Opening reception: "Flowers," showcasing the work of Jim Bobick, an artist from the suburbs of Washington, D.C. whose work is included in many collections nationally. His inspirations include Alex Katz, Andy Warhol, and Jeff Koons. The Castro Country Club (CCC) is a clean & sober social space in the heart of the Castro. Partial proceeds from sales of Bobick's paintings will be contributed to the Club. Reception July 4, 4-6pm. Show runs thru Aug. 1. CCC, 4058 18th St. at Castro.

## Tue 5

### Comics Gone Wild

#### @ Harvey's

Comics Gone Wild — An off-the-wall, bi-weekly, stand-up comedy show featuring Queer and Queer Friendly Comedians taking the Castro by storm. This week Pippi Love-stocking (San Francisco's favorite fierce comic tranny tart) hosts with special guests Sandy Stec (aka Middy Radio Personality Sandy Rooney at Mix 106.5 FM), Datner, Marti MacGibbon, headliner Ronn Vigh, and special guests. Free. Tue, July 5, 9:30pm. Harvey's, 18th & Castro. Info: Harvey's at 415-431-4278; stoodup-sf@hotmail.com

## Wed 6

### Retool 'n Grind @ Eros

"Retool 'n Grind," the only FTM-and-friends open-mic located across the street from a major supermarket chain! You don't

have to be trans to participate. You don't even have to be queer. But you do have to be comfortable being seen entering a gay bathhouse — and if you're reading this, probably you are. Share your talent, be it words, music, a dance interpretation of the Michael Jackson trial, or some combination thereof. Free. July 6, 7pm. All Ages. Eros, 2051 Market St. (across from Safeway).

## Thu 7

### Tribute to Frank, Sammy, Joey & Dean

#### @ Post Street Theater

Preview: Transport back to a balmy night in 1960 when four showbusiness icons converged at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas to regale audiences with a freewheeling, no-holds-barred show. Special appearance by Marilyn Monroe! Featuring such Sinatra classics as "Come Fly With Me," Martin's "That's Amore," and Davis Jr.'s "Mr. Bojangles," backed by a swinging live 12-piece orchestra. Created by Sandy Hackett (son of late comedian Buddy Hackett) who also portrays family friend Joey Bishop. Directed by Billy Karl. \$30 previews; \$35 Tue.; \$40-\$60 other perf. Opens Tue. July 12; closes Sun., Aug. 7. Tue.-Fri. at 8pm; Sat. at 3pm & 8pm; Sun. at 3pm & 7pm. Post Street Theatre, 450 Post St. (1/2 block off Union Square). Tix: 415-771-6900; ticketmaster.com

### Meredith Moran

#### @ Main Library

Reading from "50 Ways to Support Lesbian and Gay Equality," with Meredith Moran, Diva Dan, Renate Stendahl and Emily Doskow. A compendium of essays that suggests ways individuals can engage in conversation and help promote better understanding of GLBT issues. 6:30-7:30pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

### Revival BINGO @ MCC-SF

Vowing to give back as much as they get, The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc. bring their award-winning Sisters' "Revival BINGO" back to the Castro. A night of fun and games, Drag Nuns, professional live entertainment, cash prizes, and all for a great cause. BINGO Chair Nun: Sister Tilly Comes Again. Thu., July 7, at 7pm. \$20 (includes 2 sets of BINGO cards for 8 rounds) Advance tickets for "Revival BINGO" at All American Boy or online at www.aceva.com (keyword: BINGO). Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), 150 Eureka St. Info: www.theisters.org

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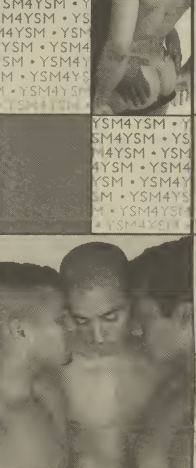
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# Everybody loves a parade

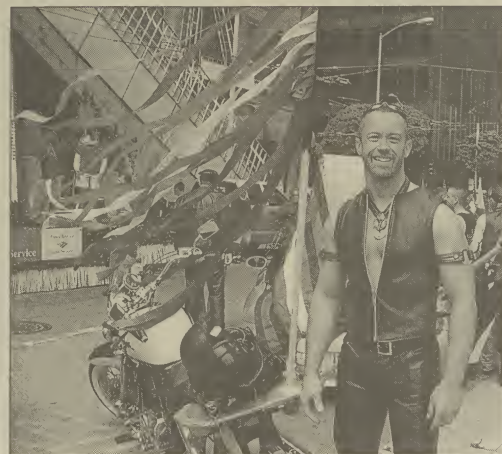
by Mister Marcus

It looked like the entire universe descended upon San Francisco last weekend. What with the Leather Uniform Ball in Civic Center on Friday, the Dyke March on Saturday and the parade on Sunday it was the gayest place in California. And it would be a shame not to mention all sorts of porno actors, the LGBT Film Festival movie fans, cha-cha parties galore, leather title holders from hither and yon and hundreds of outrageous costumes at almost all the events. It was truly a celebration of pride and I hope you were a part of it.

The restaurants and bars were doing brisk business and KRON-TV Channel 4 covered the whole parade from start to finish with Officer Lenny Broberg, Jan Wahl and Catherine Heenan describing groups and personalities for viewers. The embattled Lenny got through it all and the "alleged" pie-ing of him by disgruntled maniacs didn't happen. Some of these idiots need to get a life! You did a great job, Lenny! And did you catch our handsome Mayor Gavin Newsom? He wasn't sitting in a convertible waving at the crowd. He was marching, shaking hands, giving an interview on TV and dressed in casual clothes. Only in San Francisco!

The leather contingent won some sort of prize and it was a well-organized group that elicited whistles, howls and applause as they marched up Market Street. The Leather Alley at the Civic Center after the parade was jammed with spectators and participants alike, including the Bare Chest Calendar men, autographing and selling the 2006 edition.

Lots of entertainment on several stages and every conceivable group had booths including corporate entities, all giving away trinkets, raffles for travel, loan offers and porno flicks. Food booths galore and lots of eye candy. Lots of people brought their pets who were also festooned in Gay Pride colors and one guy had a beautiful parrot that had naturally almost every color of the Gay Pride flag. The weather was cool-ish



Mr. San Francisco Leather Dodger Allen hosted all the out-of-town leather title-holders and marched with them in the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade on Sunday, June 26.

until about 1100 and as the leather contingent hit Market Street, the sun burst out and the crowd cheered with gusto. It was a wonderful parade and the Civic Center was elbow to elbow. People who keep track of such things declare that locals and visitors spend over \$150 million in San Francisco during the Pride weekend. That's a lot of bucks so the parade is a welcome sight to tax collectors. The 35th Annual Pride Parade is history and one that will be long remembered.

Here's hoping Pride parades across the country, in Canada and other foreign countries are just as much fun.

## New bear magazine

Since Brush Creek Media folded, there have been few publications catering to the bear community but that all ends on August 1st when *A Bear's Life* hits the newsstands. The press release I got didn't give a web site or the price per issue, but keep your eyes peeled for it. And it's about time!

## Int'l Leather Sir/boy heats up

The International Leather Sir/boy competition will take

place in Atlanta this year. Some of the regions have already chosen their contestants. During Pride Weekend in New York 17-19 June, the NorthEast Region staged their contest at the Eagle with that cute Brian Kent mastering the ceremony. There was only 1 Sir and 1 boy competing, but they had to get a certain percentage of points to win the title. The judges saw fit to award the titles to Master Jeff from Oxford, Mass. and boy Alex from Parlin, New Jersey. They advance to compete in Atlanta in October.

The same weekend in Phoenix, Arizona the Southwest Region staged their contest at Charlie's Bar in that city. Tom Fierros and Ms. BootPig MC'd the event which was just one of many events taking place that weekend. When all the scores were tallied, Don Hilton was named SW Leather Sir and Jim MacAvoy is the SW Leather boy. They too advance to compete in Atlanta in October. There's more coming so stay tuned!

## Houston calling

It's amazing how little news emanates from Houston's leather community, but at last, there comes word that the annual "Montrose Daddy" contest was

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Weekend, June 29-31

Master/slave Conference 2005, a pansexual event in Washington, DC with Viola Johnson, the keynote speaker. Staged ostensibly to explore dominant/submissive relationships. Check out [www.masterslaveconference.org](http://www.masterslaveconference.org).

### Wednesday, June 29

Golden Shower Buddies splash and splash at 933 Harrison St. Definitely not a dry space. For info: 777-HEAD

### Friday, July 1

"A Boy and His Camera" at Magnet (4122-18th St.) photo show with lens work by SF Leather Daddy's Boy Jorge Vieto. Proceeds from raffle and sales benefit Magnet - from 2000 to 2200.

If you find yourself in Toronto, you might want to attend the wedding of Ray Tilton and Toronto Leatherman 2005 Sean Cribbin at Rooftop Terrace Union officiated by Canadian Leather Woman Jayne Schmidt. No paper dress allowed!

### Saturday, July 2

Tom Braddock and Phil Nickerson (No. California Leather Sir/boy 2004) will have a step down celebration at the Powerhouse tonight with yum yum chocolate cake. No contestants will be at ILSb from Northern California this year!

### Weekend, July 1-4

Los Angeles Boys of Leather "Stars & Stripes 2005" in the City of the Angels. For more info: [www.LABol.org](http://www.LABol.org).

### Holiday weekend, July 3-5

Great Plains Leather Sir/boy contest in Kansas City, MO. during Kansas City Pride Weekend. Info: [CodySmith@sbcglobal.net](mailto:CodySmith@sbcglobal.net).

### Wednesday, July 6

Leathermen's Discussion Group tackles "Interrogation & Inquisition" techniques from 1930 to 2130 at 933 Harrison presented by Randy Sabbagh. It's FREE!

### Saturday, July 9

Celebration of the life of the late Robert Davolt at Daddy's Bar (or is it the 440 Club?) at 1400. Hope to see you all there.

Farewell party for Ms. Evan, California Leather Woman at the White Horse Inn-Oakland at 200. Evan is re-locating to Portland, Oregon.

### Weekend, July 15-17

International Ms. Leather contest in Omaha, Nebraska. Host hotel is Radisson Redick Hotel. For info: [www.lmsl.org](http://www.lmsl.org).



# Overheated homosex

Joe Gage's latest sex film sizzles

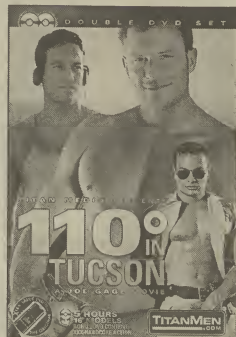
by John F. Karr

T ruman Capote's alleged response to Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* was, "That's not writing, that's typing." I feel something similar when pornographers take the credit, "A Film by So-and-So." Even to claim the title Director is a stretch for most of these cheerleaders and traffic cops. That's not film, I wanna say, that's product. A stage director knows that it's not *where* the actors walk that's as important as *why*. It's objectives, goals, subtexts. It's an understatement to say these are rarely developed in porn.

In Joe Gage, however, we have someone who continually tries to be a director in the real sense of the term, and who has brought us in *110° in Tucson* an in-depth experience of male desire and mad fucking. Don't watch this expansively envisioned film if what you want is a quick cum-shot. It takes a willingness to let this one's wiles work. And that, along with its character-driven sexuality, is why Joe Gage can say this porn is a film.

I've been a loud-spoken vigilante against pornographers whose characters claim they're straight just before they take a well-practiced spin on somebody's scepter. Although a repeated theme of (married-with-kids) director Gage has been the slow tumble of straight guys to the siren call of cock, he disarms me. His "straight" guys aren't turned out. Nor are they coveted by gays for somehow being more authentically male. Instead, they're in touch with a most basic need for cock, and in favorable circumstances and mood, given to a casual ramble along the continuum of sexuality.

Here's what Mr. Gage told me in an e-mail conversation on the subject: "I will maintain to my dying day that I don't try to pass



my men off as 'straight,' whatever that is. My position: you're a human being first, a man second, and a man with homosexual proclivities a distant third. These guys get hot and go with the flow."

In *110° in Tucson*, Gage has placed some overheated homos as well as some men of casually ambivalent sexuality in a

climate so hot they're flowing

before the word go. This happens in every way you could hope — greedy cocksucking, pile-driving fucks, and the group jack-offs that are a Gage specialty. Andy Hunter (god, I'd love to see him spike Spike) has a most mind-blowingly projectile orgasm after poking his long, long pikestaff up the very receptive ass of young hottie Damon DeMarco. This kid was nice in his only other movie, *Chi Chi La Rue's Camp Freshmen*, but without any indication of the advanced tease and smoldering sexuality that Gage releases here. Similarly, though Daxx Reed has been attractive and butch in a couple of movies, he's never had the shocking presence Gage generates in this breakout performance — Reed's a fuck-bucket blowing inexhaustible volleys of cum. This occurs along with many more explosive incidents in the

movie's finale, when nearly all the movie's characters come together for one of those *Closed Set* kind of Gage experiences: as we like to say at SF Jacks, "Just dick, desire and 100 naked men in a room." There's an intense circle-jerk centered on Hunter's love torpedo, plus flip-flopping fun and urgent Reverse Cowboy cock-riding.

## Guided arousal

So *110° in Tucson* has lots of the wild thing. But what provides the movie's major woof is its *why*. Here's where Gage really earns that credit, *A Film by Joe Gage*. The movie's 3 1/2-hour playing time contains only five extended scenes. Gage uses this time span to arouse us psychologically. This isn't reflexive porn, where we get excited because a guy skips through a menu of hard-on, cock-suck, fuck, then cum. This is reflective. Gage guides us on a journey with his characters, and we first get excited by experiencing their reactions to a set of stimuli, the musk of their unbroken eye-to-eye connection, their tight mental lock onto cock heat. Only then comes the slam-bang.

Gage's scenarios are creative, classic, and in at least one instance, fiendishly clever. A cop sees how far he can take his patrol partner when an openly gay man joins their "innocent" lunchtime jack-off. A carpenter coaxes his apprentice through a first experience with the joystick, from which the kid comes out a journeyman. In a dangerously insinuating sequence, a father and son commit intellectual incest as they punish an intruder by plugging his orifices at both ends while disporting their cocks for each other. And in a favorite of mine, a teenager devises a way to make it with his best, and incidentally straight, friend by having a nightwatchman apprehend them in an empty warehouse and force them to his will.

Quite simply, here's what makes *110° in Tucson* so fascinating. It's got all the nuts and bolts you could possibly ask for. It's also got the turn of the screw. [www.TitanMen.com](http://www.TitanMen.com) ▼



## Karnal Knowledge

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

held at the infamous Mary's Bar in the (gay) Montrose District. For the most part it's a man's title, and only once before a woman won it.

This year the title went to Dawn "Shameless" Perna, who is no stranger to the national leather scene. Ms. Shameless tells me this is a local title that is in existence to "raise money" by hosting benefits. The winner is expected to stage a fund raiser EVERY weekend and holiday weekends, including a high heel race, Christmas Tree lighting ceremony, Mother's Day event and one for the Gay Pride Parade in Houston. If anyone can do it, Shameless is the one. Thankfully, she does not advance to compete for a higher title!

## In summary . . .

It was a long, exhausting week with tons of diversions to celebrate our freedoms in San Francisco. Thanks, thanks to all the volunteers at all the events who made them resounding successes. Thanks to KRON-TV (Channel 4) for documenting the event "live" and thanks to the parade commit-



It wasn't all people at the Pride celebration in San Francisco. Pets abounded too, and here's a little cutie that captured everyone's attention in the Civic Center celebration site after the parade.

tee for pulling off another spectacular parade. The celebration lasted long into the night of Sunday, June 26th. The slogan, "San Francisco - the City that Knows How" lived up to that name.

Hopefully the loud, proud and hopeful spirit that was so evident will live through the coming months and yes, years. Thank you all for being a part of a dynamic community! ▼

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# Pride play-by-play

## Day by day through week's end

by Donna Sachet

Well, this columnist survived Pride Week; how did you fare? The Monday ceremonial raising of the gay flag over City Hall by Mayor Gavin Newsom in the company of the Grand Marshals of the Pride Parade truly set the tone for a week of enormous pride and joy. Superheroes Bevan Dufty, Tom Ammiano, Ross Mirkarimi and Fiona Ma all attended, along with a crowded assemblage of luminaries from the community. Whenever we gather as a community within the hallowed, beautiful halls of this building, we cannot escape an awesome feeling of historical significance.

The Edge hosted a *Get RED-y* for Pride event on Wednesday that had all the bartenders wearing Donna Sachet Grand Marshal T-shirts, and the entire bar swathed in red. Most of the patrons joined in the theme as emcee TJ Istvan coordinated some fun games and giveaways, and Shebal, Michael Kaye, and Mark Palladini performed thematic musical numbers.

The Pride Committee Press Party on Thursday night saw the first complete gathering of the Grand Marshals of the Parade, Ilene Chaiken, Alec Mapa (with handsome boyfriend), Esera Tuaolo (with charming partner), Jose Sarria, John Lipp, Randy Burns, James Hormel, Peggy Moore, Juanita More, Reverend Penny Nixon, and myself, and the photographers went wild. Various local

and national press representatives kept them on a revolving circuit of interviews. The Pride Committee, dynamically led by Joey Cain, presented several community awards, and there was no doubt that Pride Weekend had arrived.

Friday night began with an intimate gathering of friends at the PanPacific Hotel and my cabaret show, sponsored by Tin Pan Alley Productions. Joining us were

Chris Carnes, Dana Adkins (in town to perform at the opening of the George Lucas facility the next day), Tim Gaskin, Adam Reeves (the genius behind much of this year's Pride marketing), Jim Skiba, and Lenny Broberg.

Lenny and I then took off for the Phoenix Uniform & Leather Ball at the Green Room of the War Memorial Building. As always, the crowd was dressed beautifully in period uniforms, dress leather, and other formalwear, and the music by Gail Wilson and City Swing kept everyone dancing until well into the night.

### Saturday's child

Saturday's Seventh Annual Pride Brunch was truly a triumphant celebration, with over 200 guests attending in an elegant setting to hear personal remarks from each of the Grand Marshals of the Pride Parade. Although Mr. Hormel had committed to attending the tightly controlled opening of Lucas' facility, he made the effort and spent some time at the Pride Brunch as well. Enjoying the moving, funny, and inspiring speeches of the Grand Marshals were attendees KRON4's Jan Wahl, Jeff Anderson, Project Open Hand's Tom Nolan, Dave Rhodes of *The Leather Journal*, Bob Brunson and visiting mother Gail

Massey, Kevin Roche and Andrew Trembley from San Jose, Brian Benamati and Tony Onorati, Don Ho Tse, the reigning Emperor John Richard and Empress Tiger Lily, Michael Greenberg, Werner Tillinger, Ingu Yun, and many others, truly representing a great cross-section of our community. My co-chair Gary Virginia joined me in a surprising musical number to wrap up the brunch. Don't miss this unique SF event next year!

Later in the day, Richard Sabatara swept me off to a downtown penthouse party hosted by Tim Gaskin, Mark Calvano, Joel Goodrich, and Esera Tuaolo, including a glittering guestlist. From there we went to the biggest dance party of the week, Colossus at the Gift Center Pavilion. The place was packed by Midnight and had a wonderful open feeling with draped fabric, hanging orbs, and creative lighting effects, including a relaxing VIP section. The highlight of the evening was a late appearance by Debra Cox which brought the house down.

Riding in the Parade on Sunday as Grand Marshal for the first time is an experience difficult to express, but deeply moving. As the Parade ended and many of us gathered in City Hall once again to celebrate the end of Pride Week, there was a nice continuity of place and time. Many of the same faces were there under the same dome, more tired, but even more joyous, having survived another wonderful San Francisco Pride Celebration.

All that remained was Juanita More's Lashes party at the Bambuddha Lounge, and people came



Ambassador James Hormel and Timothy Wu surround hat lady Jan Wahl.



Grand Marshal Juanita More looks fabulous with an unidentified admirer.

out beyond expectation. We saw GLAAD Media Awards Dinner co-chair John Marez, Jimmer Cassiol from the Mayor's Office, Peaches Christ, Suppositori Spelling, Princess Kennedy, and many from the Pride Committee

letting their hair down after such an exhausting week. As a final celebration, we headed to Guspresents Giant, and found a throng of happy dancers in the newly, beautifully remodeled 1015 Folsom. It was a great end to a great week! ▼

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## Haunted by divas

◀ page 27

marks. Gustav Mahler's "Liebst du um Schönheit," sprightly accompanied by Frissell, sounds discomfiting sung in a timbre usually associated with smoky dives. When Emile Paladilhe's "Psyché," intoned in the higher voice Fleming uses in recital, follows suit in anything but idiomatic style, memories of Barbra Streisand crooning Gabriel Fauré's "Après un rêve" as though she were Grandma Goldberg doing the wash flash warning signs. Stephen Foster's "Hard Times Come Again No More" lacks simplicity. But in the end, so what? The rapturous beauty of Lennon/McCartney's "In My Life," Stevie Wonder's "My Cherie Amour," and Jimmy Webb's "The Moon's a Harsh Mistress" render this disc a triumph.

### Spanish conquest

Although Spanish diva Montserrat Caballé once descended from the operatic stage to collaborate with Freddy Mercury in the beyond-camp *Barcelona*, she by and large stuck to realms she was sure to conquer. One of those was the Salle Pleyel, where she made her Paris debut on October 15, 1966. Captured by VAI on the black & white DVD *Montserrat Caballé: Bel Canto*, the performance shows Caballé in glorious voice if a bit reserved interpretively.

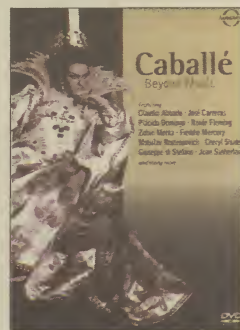
After a selection from Granados' *Goyescas*, Caballé launches into Donizetti's "Vivi ingrato" from *Roberto Devereux* with an amalgam of passion and exquisitely floated pianissimos. Her "Al



dolce guidami" from *Anna Bolena*, with which she had conquered New York and the world the year before, remains incomparable. If no one could do the final scene of Bellini's *Il Pirata* like Callas, Caballé's version nonetheless shows the voice remarkably free, her physical presence unflinchingly dramatic and convincing.

More and less is revealed about the singer in EuroArts' *Caballé: Beyond Music*. The documentary intersperses clips of live performances with interviews with Caballé, her family, and a host of artists including Fleming, Joan Sutherland, and Mstislav Rostropovich.

The more comes in the revealing tidbits. There's a hilarious section where Freddy Mercury confesses that he initially thought he would need to hold back so that he wouldn't upstage the diva, followed by their actual performance in which he must strive to make himself even bigger than usual to match Caballé's ecstatic extension of arms and voice in operatic flight. Elsewhere, Caballé comes off oh so sweet, with occasional



references to her artistic temperament: fierce competitiveness, frequent last-minute cancellations, and the occasional broken object when she couldn't have her way.

As with many documentaries of this nature, it's maddening to become totally involved with the singing only to have it arrested midstream for commentary. Some of the accolades are gratuitous, kissing the diva's hand rather than revealing what she's got under her sleeve. But what insights and singing survive intact are too good to miss.

Malcolm Boyd, who marched with Martin Luther King before coming out in print, once told me of a night that he and countless other devotees attended a Caballé performance. The diva was so sensational that they refused to leave the theater, shouting "Diva," even after the house lights were turned on and the curtain closed. Finally, with only 50 screaming queens left in the house, Caballé re-emerged to welcome them to the stage and say hello. These DVDs help reveal the magic that had us all worshipping at her feet. ▼

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# New bar in the 'hood

by Sweet Lips

Everything is settled for David Kapp's new Deco Lounge at 510 Larkin Street at Turk. The opening date is Monday, July 18. They will have a piano bar, pool table and of course the fabulous Cockatelia Drag Show and the monthly Macho Party Strip-o-Rama. This will be a large space with many rooms (good for cruising!), and yes, the popular Ron Rios will be back on the boards, so don't miss the opening of this new and different bar!

The 'N Touch will soon have a great new number on the staff named Dan. I don't know yet what shifts he'll be working, but keep checking in at the bar because he's quite a hunk!

Our good friend L. James of the old Rendez-Vous will be leaving San Francisco in a few weeks for Canada. I understand he will

be settling in Vancouver, one of my favorite cities. I'm sure he'll be a hit with the boys up there.

Gladys Bumps was quite a sensation at the "I've Written a Letter to Daddy" event at the Cinch Saloon. Everyone there exclaimed at her beauty. Incidentally, the food for that party, from next door at the East-West Deli, was outstanding, with many savory delights.

Ginger's Trois, under the management of Mr. Mason, opened the bar on Sunday for the Gay Pride Parade and had a sensational turnout. They really know how to

throw a great party.

Brian, the handsome bartender at the Pilsner Inn over at Church and Market, has for some reason captivated the eye of our old friend Bob Golovich. It's certainly a pleasant place to peruse the staff. The Pilsner has one of the nicest patios in town, with plenty of room and, what with good weather ahead, a fun place to stop by for a cocktail or three or four. ▼



Sweet Lips

## Crawford letters

◀ page 35

could be effective, as *Possessed* ('31), *Grand Hotel* ('32), *The Women* ('39), her Oscar-winning turn as *Mildred Pierce* ('45), *Humoresque* ('46), *Harriet Craig* ('50), and *The Story of Esther Costello* ('57) attest. Her career spanned 45 years, and her reputation, despite the poor films following the success of *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* ('62), appeared unassailable. Her obituary ran on front pages from *The New York Times* to *The San Francisco Chronicle*. Clearly, her extraordinary achievements were the stuff of American legends. Then her oldest adopted daughter, Christina Crawford, wrote *Mommie Dearest*, and in '78, Faye Dunaway starred in the film version.

The book and movie significantly damaged Crawford's stature. That Christina waited until Joan's death and after learning she had been disinherited to claim that her mother had been abusive, manic, alcoholic, and publicity-mad, was largely ignored. So were denials of Christina's assertions from her adopted sisters, Cathy and Cindy, who received modest legacies from their mother. Most of Joan's estate went to charities.

Her adopted son Christopher also made disparaging remarks about his mother. He, too, had been disinherited. While almost all who knew her agreed that Joan often crossed the line between well-intended discipline and abuse, many of Christina's allegations were absurd yet accepted by the public. But many Hollywood insiders, from the openly gay director George Cukor to the legendary Myrna Loy, defended Joan.

In *Joan Crawford: Her Life in Letters* (Wasteland Press, \$16.95), Michelle Vogel wants to balance the scales. She begins with a foreword by Crawford's granddaughter, Casey LaLonde, who recalls their happy times together. What does Vogel's selection of correspondence reveal? That Crawford never forgot her origins. That she took stardom seriously. She loved

its prerogatives, and accepted its responsibilities with equal energy. She wrote countless letters to fans, journalists, and friends. In them, she is affectionate, thoughtful, generous. She rarely disparages colleagues, even those she resented or loathed, like Norma Shearer and Bette Davis. (In conversations with writers Lawrence Quirk and Roy Newquist, she could be scathing.) These letters are testimony to how hard she worked at being liked and admired. Only once does another side show. She writes to a neighbor in her Manhattan apartment building, stating, "We are doing public service recordings, and all we can hear is your daughter's yelling and tantrums. Is there no way you can control her? We would be so grateful if you would at least try. Why not try Central Park, where she could draw a crowd?"

Does Vogel succeed? Perhaps. Christina, a failed actress, would cite the letters as proof that Joan was all about image. But the letters show a woman who accepted the system that created her, and lived up to her end of the bargain. She was a perfectionist. Her expectations of others, however, were no higher than they were of herself. She could be harsh. She did bully some co-stars while helping others. She did drink heavily for decades, and no doubt at times behaved badly. But her need for love and admiration was enormous, she worked hard to earn it — and did, if not from her first two children, then from others including ex-husbands Fairbanks and Tone and her two younger daughters. Crawford once said she was born in front of a camera, that it was both mother and father to her. Given the horrors of her girlhood, the statement isn't surprising. She couldn't separate the star from the woman. These letters prove that she strove to live up to an ideal image. She didn't succeed, who could? But she did her best. Clearly, she was a far more compelling person than the one-dimensional gorgon described by Christina or the camp diva Dunaway created. Her story has yet to be told in all its complexity and humanity. ▼

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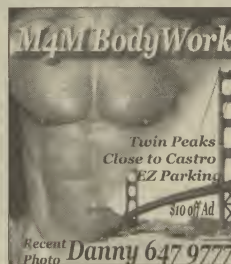
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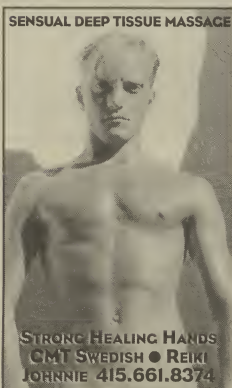
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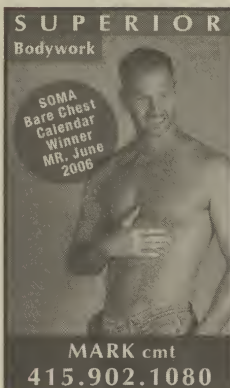
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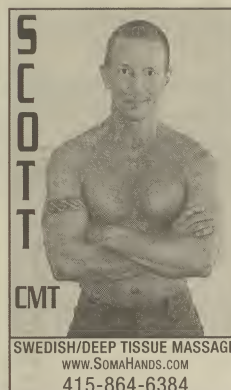
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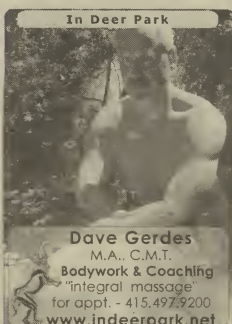
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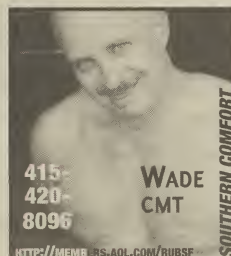


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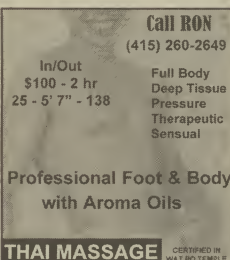
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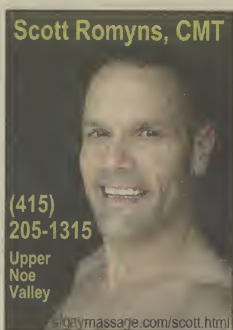
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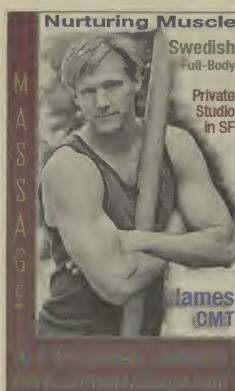
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 Swedish Full-Body  
 Private Studio In SF  
**James CMT**

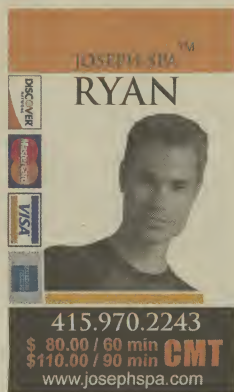


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**STRONG & MASCULINE FULL BODY, SENSUAL NEAR CIVIC CENTER**  
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**COMPLETE FULL BODY**  
 Sensual massage done in the nude by masculine endowed mature masseur at your place.Chuck• (510)388-4941



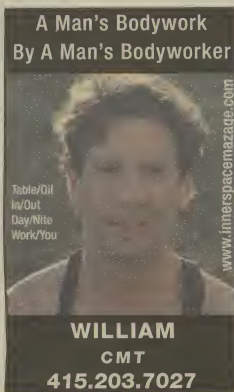
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 28, 6'0" 180" Italian. Very Tan. Down to Earth Smooth. Shaved. Gym Bod. Hot Pecs. Bubble Butt! Offers Great Massage in the nude. Escort. July 6 - 9th! Rates start at \$90 • In/Out Castro 310-940-8166 [www.meetlocalmen.com/m/m/patrick14.htm](http://www.meetlocalmen.com/m/m/patrick14.htm)



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 \$ 80.00 / 60 min  
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 5'10" • 235LBS  
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 By A Man's Bodyworker  
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**SAT JULY 2**  
**Fetish Ball**  
 LEATHER TO LACE AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN!  
**INTRODUCING FAB'S NEW LASER SHOW!**  
 FREE LASER POINTER FOR THE FIRST 50 PAID GUESTS  
 SF DJ **MATT CONSOLA**

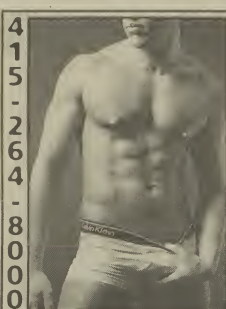


**4TH OF JULY WEEKEND**  
**SUN JULY 3**  
**FAB'S FAMOUS FOAM PARTY**  
 DANCE IN A SEA OF FOAM UNDER A LASER SKY  
 BY SEAN GREENE  
 ride on a Mechanical Surf Board and win **TITAN** Adult Videos worth \$500. for best Tropical Wear and longest surfer to stay on!  
 \$20/\$15 BEFORE 10 • COMPLIMENTARY RED ROLL IN TROPICAL SHORTS OR TROPICAL WEAR



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**SUPER HUNG**  
  
**Handsome Confident Italian Top \* 6' 170#**  
 Reliable Professional Trustworthy Discreet  
 Escort Massage Total Top Straight Acting  
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www.sfstuds.com Latin Top \$140 E24

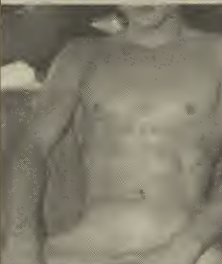
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 Hot S/M Who Is Rough, Dominant + Ready For Hardcore Action, Verbal, Long Lasting. Ball Busting 9 Incher! No Holds Barred Top! FF CBT Spanking. Expert Skills. 468-6425. Call Back Required. Ask For "Mac" The Man. Hot & Sane. E24

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FF Firecracker 4 yr Cherry Bomb Small Hands. Morlex SF 679-3320 E24

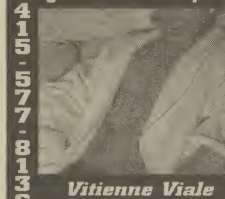
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**LEATHER TOP!**  
 Light to heavy sensual SM handsome experienced w/dungeon  
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 40 yo. 6' 0. 184. 75. cut, outcalls only

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8" Party Stud 346-4966/Ken/\$80 E26

**LET'S PARTY 9"**  
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 Sexy Irish Stud 6' Brn/Grn Smooth, Muscular Build. 8" Cut Thick. Versatile Top 312-282-3294 E26

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## PARTING GLANCE

**Metro Bar 6/23 PM**  
 Alex: Cubano From Miami Carlos Would Like To Get To Know You Better. Ciao! Papi. 71573

**Bobby Giddens Seeking Tamara Ching**  
 Anyone Knowing The Whereabouts Or Phone Number Is Asked To Call Or Leave Message. 71568

**5/16 L Train Van Ness To Castro**  
 Our Eyes Locked. You Passed Me And Smiled. I love Guys w/Glasses. You Were So Gorgeous I Couldn't Speak. 71571

**Moby Dick Bar Tuesday May 31st**  
 You Adorable Cute Bartender On Tues. Nights, With 5 O'clock Shadow. You Are Beautiful. I'm Too Shy To Say Hello. Would like To Take You To Dinner. I'm Cute Italian. 71561

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 Smooth Muscular Bodybuilder 39yrs Old. Big Bubble Butt Versatile Clean Cut. ISO Honest Relationship With Nice Guy Any Race Around 30-45yrs. Versatile Safe Sex. 71570

**Nice Ass??**  
 If You Got One, I Want It. Healthy Happy Horny Sr. (70yo) GW Masculine Top Needs GW Masculine Bottom For Fun Or Possible Relationship. Over 40 (Or Whatever). 71566

**Tall Handsome Guy, Glooking**  
 Looking For GWM 25-45 For Honest Relationship: Will Be All You Want If You Be All I need. 71562

**40 Man Seeking Man 65 Plus**  
 GM 40, Healthy, Loving, Caring, Affectionate. Like Gardening, A Day Trip. Seeking Similar Man 65 Plus For Friendship, Companionship & More. 71560

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**Beautiful Ass**  
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**Looking For A Hairy Daddy**  
 GWM, Top, 5-8, 180# Seeks Extremely Hairy Daddy Types 38-65 For Fun & Company Absolutely Must Love To Kiss 71569

**Swallow My Pride**  
 Fit Italian Bi Male, 55, With A Thick 8 Inch Cock Seeks Horny And Hungry Cocksucker For Long Sessions. 71567

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 Cooped Up Here, But They Let Me Out Sometimes. Brunette Hair, Red Beard, Bubble, Uncut, Likes All Kinds Of Things, Anglo/Welsh, 13EEE, Hazel Eyes, Freckles, Hairy Chest, Large. 71565

**Love Contrast**  
 Opposites Attract. Seeking Big Body Smooth Chested Top For Hot Fun. I Am 5'10", 170 In-Shape W/Nice Butt. 71564

**Bottom Vs. Top**  
 White Bottom Seeks Black Or Latino Top. In Shape, Runner's Build, 5'10", 170. Ready To Be Used For Your Pleasure. 71563

## FETISHES

**Suck Toes, Lick Feet**  
 Seeking Attractive White Male Under 40 With Nice Pretty Feet For Mutual Foot Massage And Oral Foot Play. 71559



# BAR TALK

## PERSONALS ARE FREE!

### CATEGORY

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 Seeking Relationship ☐  
 Seeking Adventure ☐  
 Lesbian ☐  
 Fetishes ☐  
 Couples ☐  
 Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

**MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**



## PERSONALS

## MODELS/ESCORTS



**LATINO 4U**  
415-305-9374  
XXX HOT



**Austin TX. Hottie**

New to S.F.  
Call Richard 24 hrs.  
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My place, your place & hotel  
Callers welcome!  
Actual model pictured.



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DOWNTOWN - 10/10

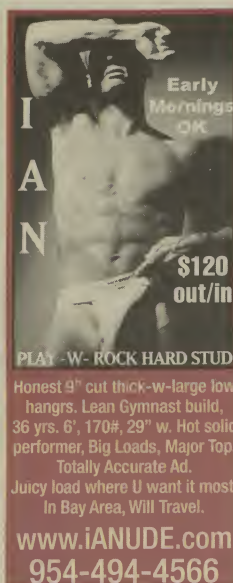


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BLACK MALE ESCORT"**

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6' - 195# - GYM BODY  
IN/OUT 24/7 - ATTITUDE FREE  
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SF calls only.


Mike, 40, 5'10", 190#, Bl/Blu  
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Smooth, Muscular Build. 8" Cut  
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BE CLOSED**

**MONDAY, JULY 4TH**

**CLASSIFIED LINE ADS  
& DISPLAY ADS FOR  
JULY 7TH EDITION  
DUE FRIDAY  
JULY 1ST AT 12PM**



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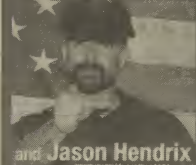
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THURSDAY, JULY 14

\$5

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BENEFITS: P.A.W.S.

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\$100 PRIZE

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25-45 y.o., HIV-, n/s, fit and healthy Caucasian, clean-cut, handsome, bright, upbeat, playful guy with good social skills, someone who is emotionally available and not afraid to show it. Visit our website and see ad code 2738. FREE to respond!

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E26

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E27

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CLASSIFIED LINE AND DISPLAY AD DEADLINES FOR JULY 7TH EDITION  
**DUE FRIDAY, JULY 1ST AT 12PM**

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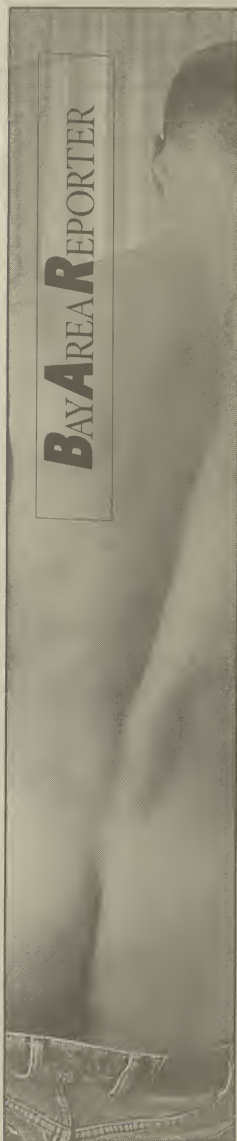
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